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AT AGO ON RARE 12-12-12 DATE PAGE 4



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WINGING IT WITH SANTA

Jaime Usmar, 3, meets Santa on the Children's Wish Foundation's flight with Santa on Tuesday at Pearson International Airport in Mississauga. In its seventh year, the flight takes 100 sick children and their families on a flight to search for Santa and bring him back to Toronto. Air Transat donated \$780,000 to the Children's Wish Foundation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gardiner message cracked

Concrete bungle. Vital information withheld from public, politicians, documents reveal

City engineers believe nearly half of the elevated portion of the Gardiner Expressway is becoming structurally unstable and have asked for half a billion dollars to tear out problem sections and rebuild them over the next decade.

City staff has requested \$505 million in capital funding to make the repairs. The work requires ripping out the road down to the steel-girder frame and will have significant and prolonged traffic implications.

This latest revelation — that staff fears Toronto's main commuter artery is on the verge of becoming unsafe — directly conflicts with what city hall officials have been preaching for months amid the ongoing falling concrete controversy.

Hundreds of documents re-

leased to Torstar News Service through freedom of information reveal a communications strategy designed to convince the public that the cracking problem was purely superficial. This was being said at the same time that staff was mapping out a plan to replace entire portions of deteriorating road.

A document of "key messages" that was routinely forwarded to top city staff before media interviews began: "The Gardiner is structurally sound. The falling pieces of concrete are concrete cover and do not affect the overall integrity of the structure."

It now appears that was not the case.

John Kelly, Toronto's acting director of design and construction, said Monday that the structural-integrity issue is not new.

"We do have structural concerns, which is why we recommended doing a replacement for certain structures of the deck (the elevated road)," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Right to work' headed north?

Bill now before Parliament targets union dues PAGE 12

Canuck's doomsday luck

Astronaut to blast off on 'end-of-the-world' date PAGE 14

Topanga and Cory, take 2

'90s coming-of-age series spins off Girl Meets World PAGE 23



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Surplus off-limits for police

Balancing the books.

Budget chief says leftover cash from 2012 must go to capital repairs

Toronto police have been issued a stern warning not to try tapping into surplus funds to balance their 2013 operating budget.

The police service is projected to have as much as \$8 million left over from 2012, but under city policy such extra funds are to be shifted to the capital budget for repairs to city assets.

To cap the police budget at \$927.8 million, the Toronto Police Services Board wants Chief Bill Blair to find an additional \$6.7 million in savings. Some suggest the surplus could fill that gap.

But the city's budget chief says the term "surplus" is a misnomer because the city has a large and growing debt and a repair backlog running into hundreds of millions of dollars for roads, parks and other assets.

"The debt is going to increase," the city's budget chief, Coun. Mike Del Grande, said at the end of public hearings on the proposed \$9.4-billion city budget for 2013 — of which policing represents the largest single item.

The current debt is "\$2.9 billion net, excluding (Toronto) Community Housing," Del Grande said. "It was at \$2.6 billion."

Coun. James Pasternak said his ward has many seniors living on fixed incomes who can't afford a tax in-

Debate

Reaction to budget

As two days of public hearings ended, some councillors were saying the city is falling behind, while supporters of the proposed budget say it maintains and in some cases enhances services despite holding the residential property tax increase to 1.95 per cent.

People are willing to pay more, argued Coun. Janet Davis, an active critic of the budgeting practices of Mayor Rob Ford's administration.

"I had a budget consultation every year since I was elected, and the people in my ward said to me: 'I want a great city and I'm prepared to pay more,'" Davis told the budget committee.

"Our (residential) taxes are lower than any municipality in the GTA," Davis added. "I don't want to hear any longer that we can't afford the city we want."

Her claim was immediately rejected by Coun. Doug Ford, who was elected, along with his brother, on a platform of cutting taxes.

crease of more than 1.95 per cent, which works out to \$48 on an average home assessed at \$474,366.

In the case of police, Blair has warned that holding the line will mean reducing offi-

cers. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



Divine launch

John-Paul Ricchio, entertainment chair for Fashion Cares 25, and singer Divine Brown were among the celebrities at the Fashion Cares book launch at La Societe Bistro on Bloor Street Tuesday. Proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the AIDS Committee of Toronto and The Elton John AIDS Foundation.

CENTRAL IMAGE AGENCY

Ikea monkey OK without pseudo-mom: Sanctuary

The baby monkey found wandering outside a Toronto Ikea store this weekend was so attached to his owner he'd have panic attacks whenever she was out of sight, a woman who considered him part of her family said Tuesday.

Yasmin Nakhuda said she's concerned about the tiny primate's well-being and is consulting a lawyer to see if she can regain custody of the "pet" she called Darwin.

However, the head of the monkey sanctuary Darwin was sent to on Monday said the mischievous simian was adjusting well to his new home.

"He's not mourning his human mother at all," said Sherri Delaney of the Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunder-



Yasmin Nakhuda FACEBOOK

land, about 100 kilometres northeast of Toronto.

"He is not showing signs of stress — signs of stress might appear in the form of his hiding or huddled in a ball, whimpering," she said during a media interview Tuesday.

"He's not doing that. He's

happy."

Delaney said she intends to call Nakhuda and update her on Darwin's condition once she gets "five minutes" of free time. But Delaney vowed the sanctuary would fight any potential legal challenges over Darwin.

Nakhuda said she initially tried to return the monkey to the breeder who supplied him, but changed her mind after hearing his heartbroken cries.

After that, she said the monkey was near her at all times, including while she slept and showered.

"At the beginning, I was told that was the best for him because generally, monkeys live off the back of the mom," she said. "He always had to be with-in my view." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Release the doves — or the jays: Wedding bells ring on 12/12/12

Rarity. Triple-digit date has grooms and brides flocking to the altar, among them ex-Blue Jay Roberto Alomar

The last repeating date most of us will ever see, 12/12/12, is on Wednesday and hundreds of people are expected to tie the knot, including former Blue Jay Roberto Alomar.

Twelve was Alomar's baseball number but for others, the date simply seems lucky, interesting or an anniversary impossible to forget. Plus, the next similar repeat is 88 years away.

"It's one of those special days and this is the last of the cycle," said Virginia Ceni, assistant director of the Toronto Civic Wedding Chambers at city hall.

"It's ... probably quadrupled the amount we would usually do on a Wednesday."

The day has proven to be more popular than 10/10/10 and 11/11/11, she said, with 40 weddings fully booking the regular chambers and requiring an extra room.

Looking at dates in a YY/MM/DD format, there are only a dozen each century that have

11/12/13

- There are already couples planning for next year's sequential date, 11/12/13, said Lynette Bair, assistant manager of David's Bridal in Mississauga.
- But for now, the company is just keeping up with the 381 Canadian weddings it knows are happening Wednesday. In the U.S., the company says there's a 1,446 per cent increase in the number of weddings compared to last Dec. 12.

three identical numbers, said Ryerson University mathematics assistant Prof. Pawel Pralat.

"The next day of this type will be 2101/01/01 so we need to wait quite a bit," he said in an email.

As for the nuptials of Alomar and his fiancée, Kim, at the Art Gallery of Ontario, his wedding planner, Melissa Andre, said in an email: "I've woven in little details like keepsake baseballs and 12/12/12 flags for cocktails. It's all about enhancing what the couple is excited about."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Roberto Alomar gestures to the crowd as his number is retired by the Blue Jays in Toronto on July 31, 2011. Alomar's marriage to his fiancée, Kim, will be held at the Art Gallery of Ontario on Wednesday and prominently feature the number 12. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leave students out of contract feud: McGuinty



Students from Mitchell Woods Public School head home on Tuesday, passing the sign that reminds them not to come to school on Friday, the day elementary teachers in Upper Grand District will hold a one-day strike.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teachers should resolve their dispute over pay with the governing Liberals in court, not by depriving students of extracurricular activities, Premier Dalton McGuinty said Tuesday.

Ken Coran, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, has been quoted as saying that he won't rule out withdrawing from voluntary activities for two years — the length of a new collective agreement the province can impose on public school teachers.

McGuinty said he doesn't understand why teachers are

Quoted

"Don't deprive Ontario students of everything that you bring to the table every day, what you've brought to the table every day during the course of the past nine years.... Keep that going. Bring that to schools every single day."

Premier Dalton McGuinty

involving students in their dispute over money by stopping voluntary activities and staging one-day strikes.

"It's one thing for teachers to withdraw their goodwill

from us, but it's another thing to withdraw the goodwill from students," he said.

"I think students have to be able to count on those extracurricular activities. They are

such an important part of an enriched educational experience."

But he said he won't make extracurricular activities mandatory.

"You can't pay for goodwill," McGuinty said. "You can't legislate goodwill."

If teachers don't reach local deals with their school boards by Dec. 31, the province will impose one that will freeze the wages of most instructors and cut their benefits, such as the number of sick days they're allowed to take each year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Possible walkout

TDSB eyeing school shutdowns

The Toronto District School Board plans to close schools if elementary teachers hit the bricks even though the board could keep them open, Torstar News Service has learned.

The TDSB — like many other boards across the province — has warned parents

that Toronto schools will be shut "in the event of a walk-out" by Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario members. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Arrests

School guards accused of selling pot to teenagers

Two security guards hired to



Kristijan Rados FACEBOOK.COM

supervise students at a Mississauga high school as a result

of work-to-rule action have been arrested on drug charges and are alleged to have been selling marijuana to students on school property.

Peel Region police confirmed Tuesday that Kristijan Rados, 20, and Michael Wiszniewski, 19, were each charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking and breach of trust. Both men are from Mississauga.

The arrests followed a complaint on Dec. 4 by the parent

of a student at Clarkson Secondary School, said Peel District School Board spokeswoman Carla Pereira. The arrests were made the same day. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charges laid

Blast avoided at friars' building

A house full of Dominican friars narrowly dodged disaster

when they caught a man breaking into their home, where he had released propane gas, police say.

A resident heard someone breaking into the Dominican Friars of Canada's Toronto chapter near Huron and Bloor streets Monday and called police.

A suspect was arrested and charged with, among other things, four counts of attempted murder.

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Retailers jump on doomsday bandwagon

Armageddon.

Prophecy used as backdrop to sell diverse range of products

As the clock counts down to Dec. 21, 2012, retailers have jumped on the Armageddon bandwagon, shilling everything from budget-friendly macaroni and cheese to plush SUVs, against an end-of-days

backdrop.

"Hurry before time runs out! Literally!" bellows a promotion for The Humbert Group's four GTA-area GM dealerships. The company's website promises "apocalyptic deals," features a countdown clock and claims "If the world ends, you don't pay!"

"We wanted to do something that elevated us above the clutter in the media, stood out and we could have some fun with it," said the group's



spokesman Michael Carmichael, dealer principle at City Buick Chevrolet Cadillac GMC

"It's not so much that people are running in to buy cars, but we're getting a ton of awareness for our dealerships, which is what we wanted. You can go buy your vehicle and get a very similar price from 19 GM stores in Toronto, but the four of ours deliver a different customer experience and this kind of approach to marketing is reflective of our culture. We've seen a lift in our traffic and even in team morale." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

'Go out with a bang!'

End-of-world lap dance special

Over at the Filmores Hotel, doomsday-related signage urges: "Go out with a bang! Try a lapdance before it's too late!" President Howard Ad-

ams promises a fulfilling four minutes for a mere \$20.

"Life is about experiences and you should try everything. It's an art form, it's not about sex as many people think," he said of the performances.

Passersby have been "taking pictures, stopping and pointing" at the marquee which offered free lap dances to visiting heads of state during the G20.

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Oprah Winfrey's Canadian network was not compliant with terms requiring it provide formal educational content for adult viewers, says the CRTC.

MICHAEL CONROY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On TV. CRTC threatens to pull Oprah network

The federal broadcast regulator is threatening to pull Oprah Winfrey Network Canada off the air unless owner Corus Entertainment Inc. proves it has taken steps to meet the educational mandate of the network's original licence.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission held a one-day hearing on the issue Tuesday after finding in 2011 that OWN was not compliant with terms requiring it provide formal educational content for adult viewers.

The CRTC said the OWN

licence grants privileges, such as a requirement that no other specialty service can offer the same type of educational programming — but also imposes conditions geared to benefit the community.

The CRTC said the hearing would consider applications submitted by Corus seeking to amend OWN's licence and for a new licence to operate a national English-language specialty category B service.

A CRTC spokeswoman said a decision will be made public some time after the hearing.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Essex County Library

Hundreds of books destroyed by urine

The pages of books often yellow with age, but almost 400 volumes at a southwestern Ontario library have yellowed before their time.

For the past three weeks, staff at an Essex County Library branch in Leamington have been discovering urine-doused books on their shelves. The latest incident was Monday, and each discovery reveals about 30 to 90 damaged books.

The perpetrator, who has yet to be caught, has caused about \$5,000 in damage.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Whitby

Man charged after allegedly choking officer

A 20-year-old man faces charges after police say an officer was choked at a bar east of Toronto.

Durham Regional Police say officers responded to a call of male patrons causing a disturbance at a Whitby bar around 2:25 a.m. Saturday.

The officer was taken to hospital for a checkup but was not injured in the incident.

Cameron Peck of Port Hope is charged with assaulting a peace officer and causing a disturbance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Conditions worsen in Syrian refugee camps as winter looms

Survival. Basic necessities are scarce, from blankets and food to toilets and medical supplies

The tent camp sheltering Syrians uprooted by their country's brutal civil war has lost the race against winter: The ground under white tents is soaked in mud, fights erupt over scarce blankets and volunteer doctors routinely run out of medicine for coughing, runny-nosed children.

The 21-month-old battle to bring down President Bashar Assad has already forced some three million Syrians from their homes, according to a new estimate, and cold, wet winter weather is making life increasingly unbearable for the displaced.

Many of the roughly 12,000 people seeking refuge in the tent camp near the Syrian village of Atmeh on the



Abdullah Ahmed, 10, suffered burns in a Syrian airstrike. He stands outside his family's tent in a village for displaced Syrians on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turkish border fled with just the clothes on their backs, running from intensifying bombing raids by the Syrian air force in recent months.

A 10-year-old boy, Abdul-

lah Ahmed, walked around the camp with a bandaged head and hands after suffering burns during an airstrike on his home.

"I have nothing left ex-

cept the mercy of God," said Mariam Ghraibeh, a 60-year-old war widow whose home in the town of Kafr Awa'id, about 140 kilometres to the south, was

destroyed in an airstrike a month ago. Ghraibeh and her family of 15 now huddle in tents, sleeping on thin mattresses on cold plastic.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civil war

Blood spills as rebels make gains

Syrian rebels, including Islamic extremists, took full control of a sprawling military base Tuesday after a bloody two-day battle that killed 35 soldiers, activists said. It was the latest gain by opposition forces bolstered by an al-Qaida-linked group that has provided skilled fighters but raised concerns in the West.

The Sheik Suleiman military base was the second major base captured in the north by the rebels, who also are making inroads farther south toward the capital, Damascus. No figures on rebel casualties were provided. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Michigan State Police surround the George W. Romney State Office Building Tuesday as thousands of protesters rally outside the state Capitol as lawmakers push final versions of right-to-work legislation in Lansing, Mich.

CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Right-to-work' legislation may head to Canada

Union power.

Private member's bill regulating union dues now before Parliament

The federal opposition parties are warning that so-called "right-to-work" legislation that has passed in Michigan could soon come to Canada.

Thousands of people in that state protested Tuesday as the first of two laws designed to weaken union power passed in Michigan's Republican-dominated House of Representatives.

Opponents of the law, in-

Opposition

"This is about going after, and it's about harassing, trade unions."

Interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae on Tory proposals to regulate union dues

cluding U.S. President Barack Obama, say the law only gives workers the right to work for less pay.

Ottawa-area Conservative MP Pierre Poilievre has already been calling for new rules allowing union members to opt out of paying dues.

The proposal is similar to the legislation adopted in

Michigan and 23 other states south of the border — as well as a private member's bill proposed earlier this year by Conservative backbencher Russ Heibert.

His financial transparency bill, which was debated Tuesday in the House of Commons and will likely go to a final vote Wednesday, would require unions to disclose how much money they spend on political activities.

Labour groups say it's simply a power grab.

"Unions already provide this information to their members," says the United Food and Commercial Workers union. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Proposal expands access to witness protection

Canada's spy and defence agencies — not just police — would be able to refer people to the federal witness-protection program under changes proposed Tuesday.

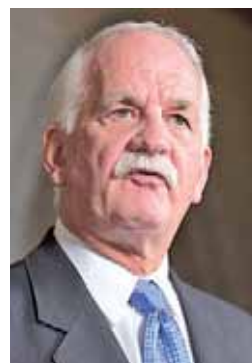
The Safer Witnesses Act, tabled in the House of Commons, is aimed at more effectively tackling terrorism and organized crime, said Public Safety Minister Vic Toews.

"We know that organized crime is becoming more global, transnational and pervasive," he said.

"In some cases, law enforcement relies on the co-operation of individuals formerly involved with these organizations in order to disrupt their activities or successfully prosecute the ring-leaders."

The federal witness program, administered by the RCMP, shields people who help authorities by providing everything from short-term protection to permanent relocation and identity changes.

However, Toews said there will be no new money for the Mounties to broaden the witness program and any addi-



Public Safety Minister Vic Toews speaks in the House of Commons.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tional funding must be found within the national police force's existing budget.

Revelations five years ago that a protectee committed a murder while in the program triggered a wave of review.

Toews said Tuesday the government rejected a proposal to put decisions as to who gets into the program in the hands of an independent agency. It also opted against creating an external advisory board to serve as a watchdog.

Other features

The legislation would also:

- Make it easier for witnesses in provincial programs to obtain new identities
- Impose new restrictions on the disclosure of information, to help make the program more secure
- Increase the amount of time emergency protection may be provided to witnesses

The proposed changes follow recommendations from a Commons committee, an inquiry into the 1985 Air India bombing and extensive consultations with the provinces.

The Air India commission said it was inappropriate for a police agency with an interest in ensuring sources agree to become witnesses to also make decisions about admission into a witness-protection program. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Radical changes

Uruguay set to alter marriage law

Taboo-breaking Uruguay is poised to legalize gay marriage, with lawmakers debating Tuesday whether to create a single law for both heterosexuals and homosexuals. It would also let couples decide whose surname goes first when they name their children — across Latin America, laws require the father's come first — and allow husbands, not just wives, the right to renounce marriage vows without cause.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bonds of matrimony

U.K. won't force faiths to wed gays

The British government announced Tuesday that it will introduce a bill next year legalizing gay marriage — but banning the Church of England from conducting same-sex ceremonies.

Some religious groups, including the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, oppose gay marriage, and the government is seeking to reassure them that they will not be forced to take part.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Traditional headgear

Sikh proudly defends Queen in a turban

Britain's Ministry of Defence says Sikh soldier Jatenderpal Singh Bhullar became on Tuesday the first guardsman to parade outside Buckingham Palace while wearing his traditional turban.

Other Sikhs have taken part in guarding the Queen's palace in London but wore traditional bearskin hats rather than turbans.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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One Canadian will live to tell the tale if world ends

Space mission.

Astronaut Chris Hadfield will slip the bonds of Earth just before Mayan doomsday prediction

If next week's end of the Mayan calendar really does happen to mark the end of the world, one of the few people to live beyond the apocalypse would be a Canadian.

Astronaut Chris Hadfield will blast off in a Russian space capsule next Wednesday and arrive at the International Space Station on the declared doomsday: Dec. 21. In a telephone conference Tuesday with Canadian reporters, Hadfield joked that he'll have a place from which to witness the globe-stopping spectacle.

On a more serious note, the 53-year-old space veteran said people want to feel their time on Earth has mattered

Back to Earth

Hadfield is due to return to Earth in mid-May after leaving the planet for at least five months.

- **Spacemates.** He will be travelling to the station with NASA astronaut Tom Marshburn and Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, after blasting off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

and they want their lives to be significant in history. So, he said, what could possibly make time on Earth more significant for someone than if the world happened to end during their time?

The married father of three says that while his visit probably won't coincide with the end of the world — it will mark the end of a lifelong dream. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, right, and crew members of the next expedition to the International Space Station — American Tom Marshburn, left, and Russian Roman Romanenko — show a small toy during preflight preparation on Friday at Kazakhstan's Baikonur cosmodrome. They will be taking the toy with them to the ISS.

GETTY IMAGES

Hunger strike. First Nation chief vows to 'die' to force treaty talks with feds

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan is offering to meet this week with a northern Ontario chief who embarked on a hunger strike Tuesday out of frustration with the federal government.

Chief Theresa Spence of the remote Attawapiskat First Nation launched her protest with a vow to "die" unless the Conservative government starts showing more respect to First Nations concerns and aboriginal treaties.

Spence was at the centre of a media storm last year because of a winter housing crisis in her community.

She says she wants the federal government to withdraw recent legislation which she claims was forced on aboriginals. She also wants it to reverse its decision to cut funding to First Nation organizations and communities.

Spence is staying in a cabin on an island in the Ottawa River while she goes without food. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Egypt's judges to boycott vote on disputed constitution

To vote, or not to vote. Judges' move unlikely to stop the referendum, but places doubt on legitimacy of the drafting process

Egypt's judges Tuesday said that most of them would not oversee a nationwide referendum on a contentious draft constitution, as tens of thousands of opponents and supporters of the country's Islamist president staged rival rallies in Cairo, four days ahead of the vote.

The demonstrations and judges' boycott came hours after masked assailants set upon opposition protesters staging a sit-in at Tahrir Square, firing birdshot and swinging knives and sticks, according to security officials. They later said that five "hardened criminals" were arrested in connection with the attack.

Eleven protesters were wounded, the MENA state news agency said, citing a Health Ministry spokesman.

The violence served as a stark reminder of the stakes in Egypt's political battle over the disputed draft constitution, which goes to a nationwide

Power struggle

The opposition has rejected any dialogue with Morsi until he shelve the draft constitution and postpones the referendum. They had also demanded that Morsi rescind decrees giving him near-absolute powers. He withdrew those powers on Saturday, but insisted that the referendum will go ahead as scheduled.

- Anticipating unrest on the day of the referendum, Morsi has ordered the military to join the police in maintaining security and protecting state institutions until after the results of the vote are announced.

referendum on Saturday. The charter has deeply polarized the nation and triggered some of the worst street violence since Morsi took office in June as Egypt's first freely-elected president.

Ahmed el-Zind, the chairman of the Judges' Club, said 90 per cent of the nation's judges would not oversee the Saturday vote. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



An army tank deploys as Egyptian protesters gather outside the presidential palace during a demonstration against President Mohammed Morsi in Cairo, Tuesday. Opponents and supporters of Morsi staged rival rallies, four days ahead of a nationwide referendum on a contentious draft constitution. **HASSAN AMMAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Anti-smoking medication

Drug has his and hers effects

It's a tobacco cessation drug with very strange his and hers effects. A drug that can double the chances a man will kick the habit has no apparent effects on a woman's ability to quit, a new study shows. The study also shows Naltrexone can help women



Naltrexone CONTRIBUTED

dramatically curb the weight gain associated with quitting, while having no effects on a male quitter's post-smoke bulge. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Lawsuit

Ornge settles with whistleblower

Ontario's scandal-plagued air ambulance service has settled a lawsuit with a former employee who alleged she was fired for being a whistleblower. Lisa Kirbie sued Ornge only about six weeks ago, but a spokesman for the agency says the case has now been

resolved, though details of the settlement are confidential. Kirbie alleged that former CEO Chris Mazza was volatile and sexist.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Lisa Kirbie
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Caregiver appreciation

Care-giving challenge

'Tis the season to care, so why not do something nice for a caregiver in your life — and tell the rest of Canada about it? The more Torontonians who share their do-good stories, the greater the chance of landing the city in top spot as the most caring

community in Canada.

It's all part of a promotion launched this week by Canada Cares, a first-of-its-kind program that supports and recognizes caregivers of all kinds across the country.

Every person who participates in the challenge with a story, photo or video on the Canada Cares website will be entered into a draw to win one of thousands of dollars worth of prizes. **METRO**

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Shock is etched on the faces of people outside a Portland, Ore.-area shopping mall Tuesday after a gunman wearing camouflage and body armour opened fire. BRUCE ELY/THE OREGONIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Shots after shots after shots ...'

Pre-Christmas terror.

Shoppers flee mall in a frenzy of fear as camouflaged gunman opens fire, killing 2

A gunman wearing camouflage and body armour brought terror to a crowded Christmas shopping mall Tuesday.

Shoppers screamed and cried, grabbed their children and ran for the nearest doors as shot after shot rang out.

Police said three people, including the gunman, were dead.

Sheriff's Lt. James Rhodes said amid the chaos at the Portland, Ore.-area mall that the gunman was "neutralized."

Kira Rowland said she was shopping at Macy's in the Clackamas Town Center when the shots started.

"All of a sudden you hear two shots, which sounded like balloons popping," Rowland said. "Everybody got on the ground. I grabbed the baby from the stroller and got on the ground."

Rowland said she heard people screaming and crying.

"I put the baby back in the stroller and ran like hell," Rowland said. "It was awful. It was shots after shots after shots like a massacre."

Holli Bautista, 28, said she was shopping in Macy's for a Christmas dress.

"I heard people running and screaming and saying 'Get out, there's somebody shooting,'" she said. Hundreds of shoppers and mall

Quoted

"I heard about 20 shots, and everyone hit the ground. That's when we all just ran."

Pam Moore,
Macy's employee

employees started running. Bautista said police officers, firefighters and emergency workers were pouring in.

"There's tons of ambulances lined up," she said.

Macy's employees Pam Moore and Austin Patty said the shooter was short, with dark hair, dressed in camouflage.

He had body armour and a rifle and was wearing a white mask, they said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not worth the risk?

Vancouver DJs ban prank calls

A Vancouver morning show has decided prank calls aren't worth the risk after the tragic fallout from an Aussie radio station's call to the London hospital where the Duchess of Cambridge was being treated for extreme morning sickness.

Jack FM 96.9 morning show hosts Tara Jean Stevens and Kiah Tucker put an indefinite moratorium on prank calls after nurse Jacintha Saldanha was found dead, apparently by suicide, days after she was a victim of the prank.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Royal hoax. Could radio station face charges for prank-turned-tragedy?

Could the Australian radio station behind a royal hoax phone call face criminal charges for airing the conversation? The question was being discussed in legal circles Tuesday.

Two DJs from Sydney's 2DayFM who phoned an exclusive London hospital got confidential information about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge, who was there suffering from severe morning sickness.

A nurse who answered the call died later — leading to wide criticism of DJs Mel

Greig and Michael Christian, who had pretended to be Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles.

The New South Wales state Surveillance Devices Act prohibits the broadcast of recorded private conversations without participants' permission, with violations punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$58,000.

Privacy law expert Barbara McDonald said the Commercial Radio Code of Practice has a similar ban.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nelson Mandela receives treatment for lung infection

Past troubles. The former South African leader has a history of lung problems, including falling ill with tuberculosis in 1988

Military doctors are treating South Africa's former president Nelson Mandela for a recurring lung infection, an ailment the 94-year-old anti-apartheid leader remains susceptible to because of his age and his 27 years in prison.

Government officials acknowledged for the first time Tuesday that the illness forced soldiers to admit Mandela to a military hospital on Saturday, though they



Former South African president Nelson Mandela has been admitted to a hospital in Pretoria.
SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

while imprisoned. Medical experts say respiratory illnesses like pneumonia striking a man his age are a serious matter that require care and monitoring.

"They call pneumonia 'the old man's friend' because it is the thing that ultimately carries many people off," said Dr. Peter Openshaw, the director of the Center for Respiratory Infection at Imperial College's National Heart and Lung Institute in London. "What I guess they'll be doing is trying to find out exactly which type of infection it is and then to give it the most appropriate treatment. With modern antibiotics and investigation, then there's no reason a chest infection by itself should be untreatable."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

said the politician was responding to treatment.

Mandela fought off a similar infection in 2011 and once contracted tuberculosis



Suicides focus attention on Spain's homeowners

Elizabeth Marquez, from Ecuador, reacts before her eviction in Barcelona, Spain, on Tuesday. Spain approved a two-year suspension of evictions for some needy homeowners unable to pay their mortgages, but activists said the government failed to address the larger issue of how those who give up their homes may still carry debt, sometimes for the rest of their lives. Public attention on the issue intensified greatly in recent weeks after two homeowners facing eviction committed suicide.

MANU FERNANDEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monopoly

Lagos, Nigeria inspires board game

Nigeria's largest city of Lagos is no boardwalk, but now Monopoly is taking inspiration from the city's sprawling chaos.

Officials unveiled a Lagos-themed Monopoly board game Tuesday in the city.

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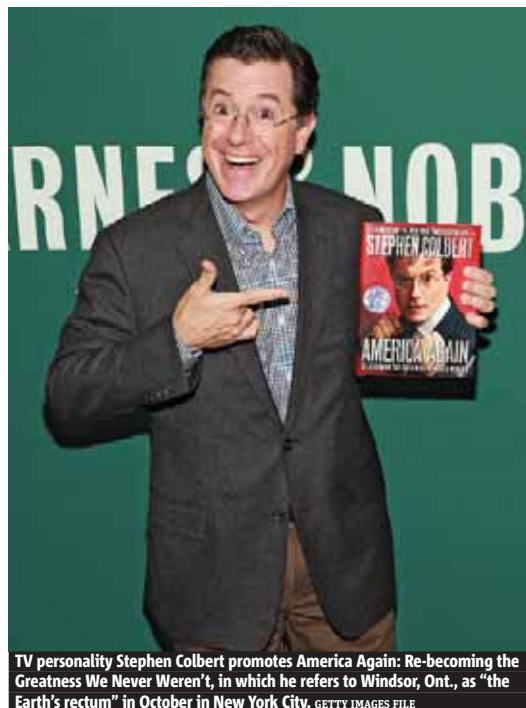
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Windsor BIA steps up campaign to woo Colbert



TV personality Stephen Colbert promotes *America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't*, in which he refers to Windsor, Ont., as "the Earth's rectum" in October in New York City. GETTY IMAGES FILE

'Earth's rectum' furor.

With new video, locals make last-ditch attempt at convincing comedian to host holiday parade



LUKE SIMCOE
 luke.simcoe@metronews.ca

With less than four days to go until its inaugural Santa Claus parade, the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association (BIA) is hoping a new video will convince Stephen Colbert to play host.

Filmed by Marshall Sfalcin and starring BIA chair Larry Horwitz, the video is the latest missive in a campaign that began last month when Colbert responded on his show to the brouhaha over his referencing of Windsor, Ont., as "the Earth's rectum" in his new book *America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't*. (He told viewers he could have just as easily been talking about Winnipeg.)

Since then, Horwitz has

Quoted

"We've been given a clean bill of health."

Larry Horwitz, chair of the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association, who claims a "geoproctologist" has examined Windsor and found that the city isn't the Earth's rectum after all.

been trying to get the American comedian to cross the border and serve as the grand marshal of the new holiday parade.

Although filmed "entirely in Windsor," the video tells the tale of Horwitz's journey to New York to deliver a box full of Canadian goodies to Colbert. Along the way, he encounters rude baristas and has a run-in with security at Colbert's Comedy Central studios.

The downtown Santa Claus Parade is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday. To date, Colbert has not responded to the BIA's request.

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Economic status. Poorest Canadians see few gains in absolute income

Income inequality in Canada has remained steady since 1998, according to the traditional benchmark, but absolute dollar gains by the country's highest earners have far outstripped the gains by those at the bottom, a report by TD Bank said Tuesday.

Even though the poorest saw a slightly larger percentage gain in income, absolute gains — the amount of dollars in a person's pocket — tell a different story, said TD Bank chief economist Craig Alexander.

"Although the traditional benchmark of income inequality isn't showing an increase, the absolute levels of income matter enormously," he said.

After a 20-per cent increase, the after-inflation level of income of those in the bottom 20 per cent increased to only \$15,200 in 2010 from \$12,700 in 1998.

Meanwhile, at the high end of the income scale, the top 20 per cent have seen an 18-per cent increase in income since 1998, but that translates into \$26,700 to bring their income to

Quoted

"Although the traditional benchmark of income inequality isn't showing an increase, the absolute levels of income matter enormously."

TD Bank chief economist Craig Alexander

\$171,900.

"So part of the issue around income inequality is the fact that households at the low end of the income scale have extremely absolute low levels of income, and that's a major challenge," Alexander said.

And, he points out, those in the middle of the range have seen the slowest pace of increases as the downward pressure on jobs and wages in the manufacturing sector has weighed on growth.

Alexander said within the middle group there was likely a range of experiences depending on what sector individuals worked.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada Post. Holiday rush brings onslaught of mail — and griping

It's supposed to be a time when festive packages are delivered with care and yuletide greeting cards are opened with glee.

But for some Canada Post customers — and the postal employees who have to deal with their complaints — it's not exactly the hap-happiest time of the year. As the volume of letters and parcels being delivered by the post office reaches massive levels over the holidays so, too, does the griping.

When Canada Post issued a release on its Facebook page Dec. 3, urging people to check

international send-by dates for Christmas packages, there were dozens of not-so-kind responses from people bitterly upset about lost parcels, late deliveries and high postage costs.

Faster technology has made it easier to locate packages, but has also raised people's expectations of how quickly their goods should arrive, said Canada Post spokeswoman Anick Losier. "Our No. 1 call to the customer service is, 'Where's my parcel?'" — the day before it's due," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online health services

WebMD to cut jobs by 14%

Health website operator WebMD plans to cut about 14 per cent of its workforce as part of a push to reduce costs. The New York firm says the cuts amount to about 250 positions and will save \$45 million US in annual operating expenses. WebMD provides health and benefits information to consumers, employers, doctors and health plans.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute



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obvious benefit of shopping around for car insurance is the possibility of getting a better rate and saving a lot of money. Because rates change frequently, it's important to check rates periodically, as a rate obtained in the last year could have decreased since then with a different provider. While insurance companies change their rates, your driver profile may have also changed, which will affect your rate — A ticket or accident falling off your record, a vehicle change or a moving to a new home can affect your car insurance rate.

Each insurance company views drivers differently. For drivers with tickets or accidents on their record, the biggest benefit of shopping around is to see which companies may rate that ticket or accident less harshly than others. Each insurance company determines how to rate for different types of tickets or accidents, which means that a better rate may be available somewhere else. In fact, rates can be vastly different for the same driver with the same ticket with two different companies.

Reviewing insurance policy. Shopping for insurance quotes forces drivers to

review their policy to make sure that there aren't any errors or omissions about their vehicle or driving history, or perhaps any missed discounts that should be applied. Staying on top of these things ensures having the right coverage and paying the best rate.

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CAGE CLOSED ON IKEA MONKEY



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Is the monkey over yet?

For 15 minutes, the Ikea Monkey was the most famous monkey in the world, the toast of everyone from Warren Kinsella to Anderson Cooper.

There he was last Sunday, larking around a Toronto Ikea parking lot in his cute little shearling coat and diaper, searching for the meatball special, distracting us for one brief monkeyshines moment, from the end of the world (Dec. 21) or the fiscal cliff (Jan. 1). If the Mayans don't get us, the U.S. Congress will.

I mean, come on. How could you resist the combination of a place where you buy rättviken sinks and ektorp sofa beds with a baby monkey named Darwin who brushes his teeth before he goes to bed and wears a Wizard of Oz-winged monkey costume for Halloween?

It was all fun until the authorities stepped in. They confiscated the coat and sent him to Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, north of Toronto. Arguably the story gets better. Now, Darwin, stripped of his raiment, has to learn to be a real monkey all over again. He'll have to bond with the other monkeys, and he'll have to do it without his 'nuck-nuck' (baby pacifier).

Darwin's owner is distraught. Darwin is, after all, seven months old, and needs his mommy, even if his mommy has a little trouble telling one primate species from another. Now Darwin has gone to live on the back of some other confused primate. Sanctuary staff are hoping that will be Sweet Pea, a baboon rescued from a roadside zoo.

As you might imagine, Sweet Pea has issues, but she loves to nurture things — kittens, fake fur, naugahyde, so cute little Darwin is just the thing.

The owner is a lawyer and, naturally, she's considering legal action to get her monkey back. When you're a hammer, everything looks like a nail, but she should be careful what she sues for.

Cute little baby rhesus monkeys grow into cute, 50-centimetre-tall adults that carry diseases and fling their feces. She might want to leave Darwin up in Sunderland, cavorting with the lemurs (cue King Julien doing the morning exercise routine: "I like to move it, move it!")

So that's it for Darwin, although he does leave a Twitter account and Facebook page behind, but he'll have to update his status from free-ramblin' to caged.

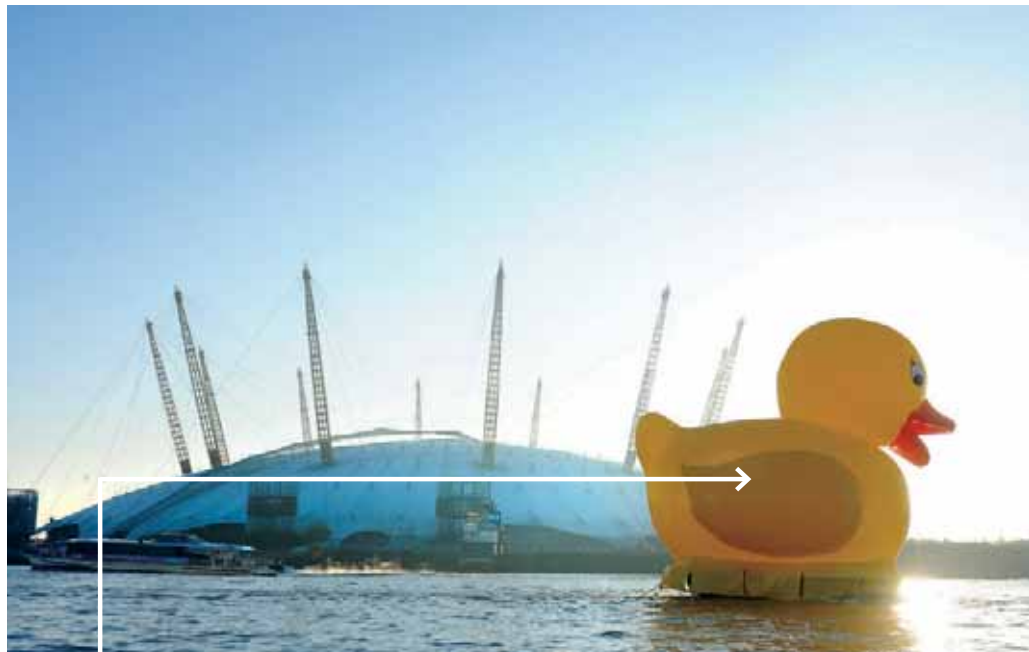
As for the rest of us, we'll find some other Internet meme to distract us. But it will be a long time before that poignant picture of that little guy wandering around the Ikea parking lot looking for the ball room fades from memory.

A long time. At least another 15 minutes.



Darwin will have to adjust to living like a monkey at Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, Ont. NIAHM SCALLAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rubber ducky, you're the big one



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Duck tales

Massive duck sails through London

Londoners were treated to an unusual spectacle Tuesday as a giant 15-metre rubber duck floated down

the River Thames.

The oversized bath toy got special treatment as the iconic Tower Bridge opened to allow it to sail through. The gigantic bird was launched to publicize a £250,000 (\$400,000) bursary to encourage Brits to have more fun. **METRO**



According to research commissioned by the FUNdation, British adults laugh 7.2 times a day on average, but psychologists say we should laugh 15 times a day for optimal health and happiness.

LEWIS WHYLD/PA WIRE/PRESS ASSOCIATION IMAGES

Rubber ducks in the past

Bath toys outline ocean currents

In 1992, a container with 29,000 plastic bath toys fell off a cargo ship in the Pacific Ocean and broke open. The rubber ducks eventually washed up on shores in Japan, Hawaii and North America.

By studying the ocean currents, oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer correctly predicted their trip via the Northwest Passage to Great Britain. **METRO**

Quoted

"We now want people to send us their own entries of wacky things they'd like to do, and we'll provide funding for the best ones."

Barbara Windsor, actress and patron of Jackpotjoy.com's new Facebook FUNdation bursary

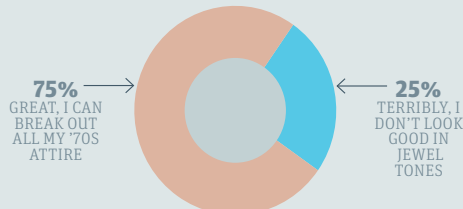
Duck dimensions

- **Weight.** 500 kilograms
- **Size.** 15 metres tall and 18 metres wide
- **Construction.** Made by an eight-person team, who spent more than 800 hours creating patterns, cutting and welding the sections together to produce the air-tight structure before it took to the water



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Emerald is Pantone's colour of the year for 2013. How does that grab you?



Twitter

@maxineward: 12/12/12 is the last repetitive date we will ever see....

@WGH2nd: Ikea monkey got a flyer winter coat than I do. -_-

@economicsunami: Congrats to Albert King & Canadian band Rush on their inductions into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame....#music #rockandrollhalloffame #RUSH

@_Up_n_Adam: I haven't been keeping track of the #raptors and it seems to be a good thing. #blowout #rtz

@aostridge: #IkeaMonkey you should be featured in the next @Ikea commercial putting together furniture

@Mariallieff: But when will Ikea start using Darwin in their ads

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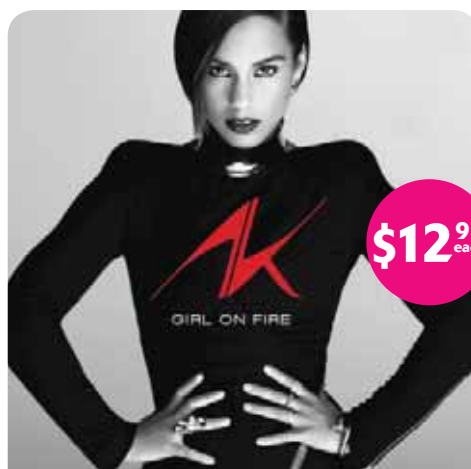
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Never too late for a series spinoff

Television. Some of the best shows of our generation could still stand the test of time if they were converted into a new series

MIKE
DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Time has a way of stoking retro fever and nostalgia mining has a deep drill bit. It used to be conventional wisdom that you had a limited window to spinoff a TV show and breathe new life into departing characters before their cache cooled.

Frasier's 11 season run got started the same year Cheers stopped serving drinks and Buffy's vampire boy-toy Angel staked a claim on his own show while the slayer was



Boy Meets World could meet Girl Meets World in a revisiting of the once-popular series. HANDOUT

still only halfway through stabbing Sunnydale's undead population.

The 1990s coming-of-age comedy Boy Meets World has

been off the air for a dozen years, but it looks like this TV graveyard corpse is about to get reanimated with original stars Ben Savage and Danielle

Fishel on board.

Girl Meets World will revisit Cory and Topanga in the present day where they now have a 13-year-old daughter.

This development leaves us wondering: what other long-ago put-to-pasture series are ready to wake up and smell the future?

Steering Urkel back to fame

With Big Bang Theory garnering stratospheric ratings, it's clear there's more room for geeks in primetime. Fashion finally caught up with Steve Urkel's once gauche cardigans and plaid button downs that used to set him apart from the crowd.

The former TGIF mainstay is decidedly hipster in modern times, and adulthood has ironed out his voice's squeakiness so he doesn't even need his nerd-suppressing alter ego Stefan to make the ladies swoon.

The Pilot: Hired as the CEO of Virgin Galactic, Urkel struggles to keep one foot on the ground in Chicago where he and Laura are raising



a brood of wily little Urkelos and the other in orbit catering to the whims of wealthy space tourists. Good thing his father-in-law Carl Winslow is still around to steer him in the right direction.



Friend to an Acquaintance

Watching present day Monica, Chandler and company reunite at Central Perk and yuk it up would be interesting television for about five minutes. Rather than dwell on past relationships already fleshed out over the course of 200-plus episodes, Acquaintances breaks new ground by focusing on the still loosely intertwined lives of the core cast of Friends. The hitch

is they play caricatures of their slightly past-their-prime real-life selves a la Matt LeBlanc on Episodes.

The Pilot: Courtney Cox begs Jennifer Aniston to appear on Cougar Town, which in the show's universe has switched networks once again and is hanging on by a thread. Jen relents, but not before making Courtney alphabetize her stack of Sexiest Woman Alive magazine appearances and polish her Golden Globe.

The XY Files

Flirty David Duchovny is much more palatable than spooky Duchovny. Besides, the Californication star is way more believable unzipping little black dresses and puffing post coitus cigs than chasing little grey men and attempting to see the truth behind smoking man's kabuki theatre.

The Pilot: A mysterious pandemic has winnowed the world's male population down to just 10 per

cent, leaving virile men in high demand. Working in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control who discovered the virus was man-made, the FBI responds by opening the XY Files, a new task force intent on apprehending the culprits. Groaning sci-fi fans will be placated by the presence of Gillian Anderson's shrewd disapproving gaze as well as fanboy jaw droppers Katee Sackoff and Summer Glau thrown in for good measure.



2 SCENE

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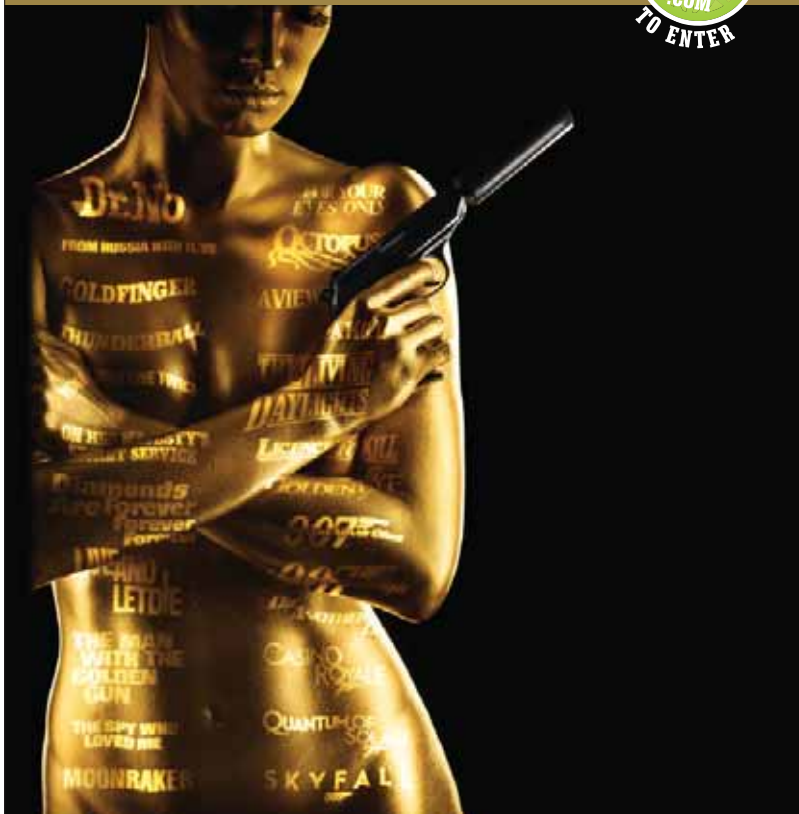
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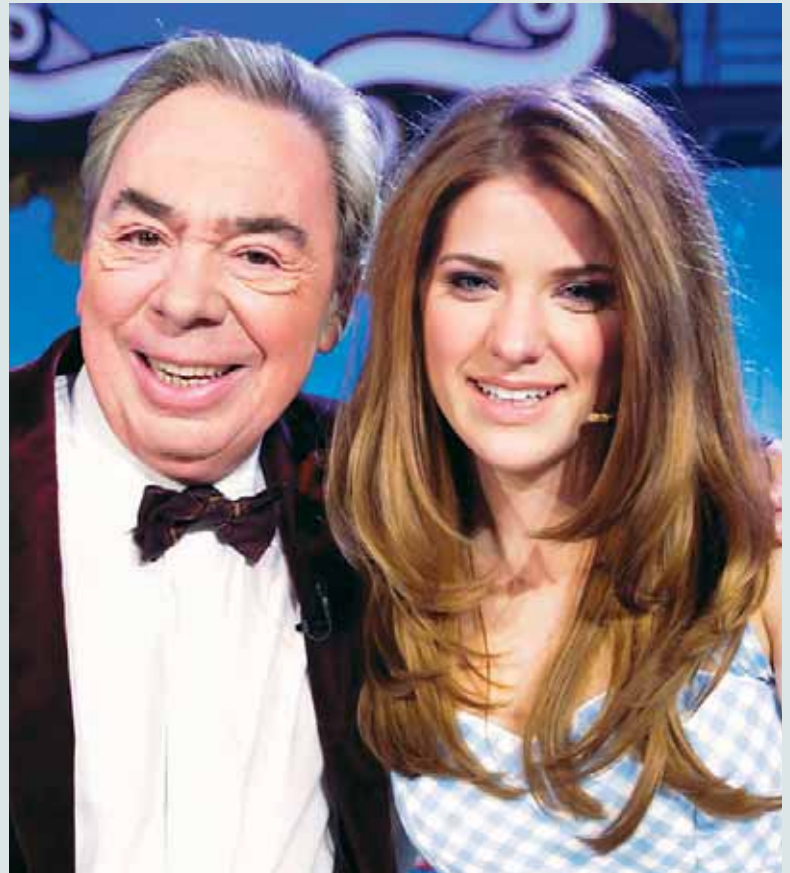
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Sceneopolis



Andrew Lloyd Webber and CBC's *Over the Rainbow* winner, Danielle Wade. HANDOUT

Look behind the Wizard's curtain

This winter, follow the yellow brick road — or King Street — to the North American premiere of Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice's stage adaptation of the legendary Hollywood musical *The Wizard of Oz*.

Toronto, we're not in Kansas anymore.

Similar to last year's revival of the Sound of Music, Mirvish Production's *The Wizard of Oz* featured a television tie-in with CBC

reality TV show *Over the Rainbow*, which auditioned thousands of wannabes to find Canada's top Dorothy.

While discovering someone talented enough to fill the legendary ruby slippers of original Dorothy Judy Garland would seem difficult, newcomer Danielle Wade charmed audiences throughout the TV show and was more than up to the task.

The stage musical *The Wizard of Oz*, is based on MGM's iconic 1939 Oscar-winning movie of the same name and premiered to the theatre going public in 2011 in London.

With additional songs

written by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Weber, as well as a top tier cast of Canadians, opens in Toronto on Dec. 20 at The Ed Mirvish Theatre on Yonge St.

This holiday season, go quickly to see the wizard, the wonderful *Wizard of Oz*.

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The Hobbit opens in theatres everywhere this weekend. HANDOUT

Before a prequel was a prequel

Hollywood. Filling in the backstory isn't something unique to movies, but it has been fully adopted by today's film industry



IN
FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

It would be tempting to think the words sequel and prequel are the creation of Hollywood marketers looking for new ways to describe old ideas. But the notion of a prequel, a movie that provides the backstory of an existing story, like this weekend's *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, is not a Tinsel Town contrivance.

The first prequel appeared in the late 7th century BCE.

Quoted

The notion of a prequel, a movie that provides the backstory of an existing story, like this weekend's *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, is not a Tinsel Town contrivance.

The Cypria, an epic of ancient Greek literature, is the story of the origins of the Trojan War and serves as an introduction to the Iliad even though it was written after the Homer epic was already in print.

The word prequel first appeared in 1958 in an article in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* but didn't catch on until it was used to describe *Butch and Sundance: The Early Days* in 1979.

The Star Wars New Hope trilogy are the most famous movie prequels, but Hollywood has been looking back to extend the lives of their

franchises for decades.

The 1966 Clint Eastwood spaghetti western *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*, the final film of the *Man With No Name* trilogy, is a prequel to *A Fistful of Dollars* and *For A Few Dollars More*.

It wasn't billed as such, but by the time Eastwood assembles his iconic poncho outfit (which he wore in all three movies without replacement or cleaning) it's obvious we are at the beginning of his journey, not the end.

The title of another movie was more obvious about its origins.

The Texas Chainsaw Mas-

sacre: *The Beginning* is the story of the roots of Leatherface, the human-skin-mask-wearing baddie of the original film. There's all the cannibalism and murder you expect from a Texas Chainsaw movie, but the grisly birth scene kicks it up to another level.

Escape from the Planet of the Apes, the third of five films in the original Apes series, came after the Earth was destroyed by a nuclear blast in the second movie. To keep the franchise alive, a story was created that saw apes travelling back in time which sounds forced but *Variety* called it "an excellent film, almost as good as the original Planet of the Apes."

The *Godfather Part II* manages to be both a prequel and a sequel at the same time. Flipping between the past and present, it's a powerful story of one family's descent into corruption.



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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

A look back: Celebrity engagements of 2012



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Despite the fact that every single person in Hollywood gets divorced, these true-believers decided to throw caution to the wind and become betrothed. We look at the big ones:

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie
The deets: Pitt proposed to Jolie, his longtime girlfriend with whom he has six children, in April with a \$500,000, 16-carat rock. "It seems to mean more and more to our kids," he says about finally tying the knot, to *Us Weekly*.
Wedding date: Ha. Like they'd tell us.

Justin Theroux and Jennifer Aniston
The deets: The two actors, who met on the set of *Wanderlust*, got engaged in New York City on Aug. 10. Theroux proposed with an eight-carat ring, worth an estimated \$500,000.
Wedding date: Again, we'll never know until they sell their photos to the magazine of their choice.

Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus
The deets: They might be young (he's 22, she's 20) but that doesn't mean they won't last forever (actually, yes, yes it does). The *Hunger Games* actor proposed to Cyrus in May, three years after they started dating, with a 3.5-carat



diamond ring.
Wedding date: Eh, you REALLY think this one is going to happen?

Hilaria Thomas and Alec Baldwin
The deets: The two love birds got engaged in April, less than a year after they first met.
Wedding date: It actually already happened (Baldwin moves fast). The two were wed in June in New York City.

Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger
The deets: The two got engaged in August, surprising a lot of fans (and gossip columnists) who didn't even know they were dating. "Things just clicked real quick," Kroeger, the lead singer of Nickelback, told a radio station about Lavigne.
Wedding date: I'm kind of getting the vibe they'll skip the wedding and just go straight to procreating Canadian royalty.

Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell
The deets: The two got engaged in January. They met while starring in a Green Day music video; they broke up when she moved on with Marilyn Manson and reconnected when her engagement to the goth rocker ended.
Wedding date: Already happened! They were married on Halloween in California. "It was a small ceremony with close family and friends," said her rep in a statement.



Harry Styles

One Direction not too keen on Swift's private jet

Taylor Swift's fledgling romance with Harry Styles appears to already be causing strife among his One Direction bandmates.

So what's got them all worked up? Travel arrangements, it turns out. After the band's stay in New York, Styles reportedly headed back to England with Swift on her private jet while the rest of the band travelled separately, according to *E!* News.

"The rest of the band were a bit annoyed about the whole thing," a source says. "They took a Virgin commercial flight and there were tons of spare seats on the jet. They were a bit miffed that Harry chose to go with her instead of them. They had just finished a huge concert in New York and all of them were on a high. The fact that he left them to travel solo irritated them a bit."

Twitter



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Dear PA who rang the gate with a script at 3 AM...notice mailbox to the left of driveway...NOTICE the actress with a Glock in upstairs window



@NiallOfficial
Sittin at home! Bored t death!



@Mruff221
I got a text from Joss Whedon the other day. Sounds like he is writing some very interesting stuff for Banner and his alter ego The Hulk.



@AlbertBrooks
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It's coming to Canada, and it's staying here too. Cheers could be heard in households throughout the country when it was announced that The Amazing Race Canada would follow Canadians traipsing the true north strong and free while competing in challenges. Debuting next summer, producers promise the show will be a love letter to Canada, but haven't revealed which areas of the country will be featured. Here are five worthy location suggestions, along with challenge ideas too.

MAE BOWRING
life@metronews.ca

1



SUBARCTIC MIKE/Flickr

Canoeing the South Nahanni River

Breathtaking mountain ranges, falls twice the height of Niagara, hot springs and gorgeous flora and fauna can all be viewed along the Nahanni in the North West Territories. Contestants would be challenged with trying to stay afloat through rapids as they navigate the river's four canyons.

5

spots the Canadian Amazing Race should hit

5

Scavenger Hunt through Kensington Market

A multicultural and national historic site in Toronto, even the oddest item on a shopping list can be found among the eclectic shops and market merchants. To prove the point, contestants would be given an obscure list of food and clothing items to buy and the first team to get all of them would win.



MARKYEG/Flickr

Mountain Biking in Whistler

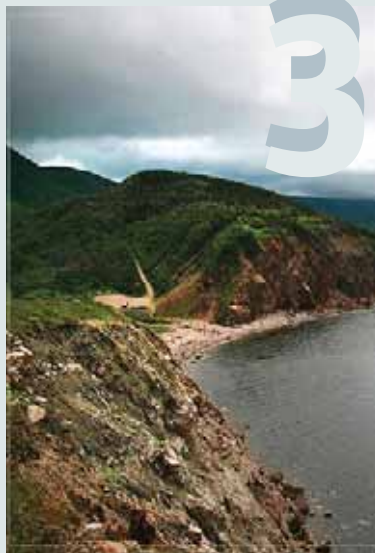
Skiers and snowboarders flock to the snow-capped mountains of British Columbia in the winter months, but during the summer, it's all about biking. With courses that feature sharp turns, rugged terrain and stomach-in-your-throat drops, it's not for the faint of heart, but it's adrenaline-packed fun. This challenge is easy. The team who makes it to the bottom of the course first in one piece wins.



ANDY_C/Flickr

Driving the Cabot Trail

Arguably the country's most scenic drive and popular among domestic and international tourists, the highway features stunning vistas and wildlife as it weaves throughout Eastern Canada. Contestants would have to work a shift at one of the bed and breakfasts along the route, catering to fellow tourists. The team that gets the highest marks for service wins the challenge.



DANI/Flickr

3



HDRAAGON/Flickr

Survivor in the Thousand Islands

A picturesque destination for vacationers wanting to get away from it all, the thousand islands is known for fishing, water sports and picture-frame worthy sunsets. Contestants would be tasked with navigating small sailboats along the Saint Lawrence River until they find an uninhabited island. Boy Scout skills will come in handy as the first group to start a small fire wins the competition.

3
THREE

Bolivia. The 'Sistine Chapel of the Andes' draws visitors with its colourful paintings

The colonial-era house of worship known in Bolivia as the "Sistine Chapel of the Andes" was filled with flowers over the weekend for those celebrating two weddings and seven baptisms on the windswept mountain plateau. Although a far cry from the original Sistine Chapel at the Vatican, the colourful paintings that decorate the inside of this small church make it a popular choice for special religious services. Built in 1608 to evangelize indigenous Bolivians into the Roman Catholic faith, the chapel these days attracts both the faithful and tourists who travel about 260 kilometres (160 miles) south from the capital of La Paz to reach the site in the town Curahuara de Carangas, in Oruro department.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five ways to save on sun trips

Hot deals. Want to beat the winter blahs? Metro finds out how to get the best bang for your buck



LOREN CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

Hoping to enjoy a little sunshine this winter without breaking the bank? Here are five tips to help you find the

best deal while planning your up-coming vacation.

Travel during non-peak times

If you are headed to the United States, avoid an early morning departure, which is rush hour for business travellers, and take a

mid-day flight.

Looking for good value on a seven day holiday at an all-inclusive resort? Consider giving up your weekend departure and going Wednesday to Wednesday as rates are often lower for those willing to fly mid-week. Happily the

experience is the same.

Jump on new routes

Airlines and tour operators that are expanding to different destinations often give introductory discounts to encourage travellers to give them a try. For example, adventurecenter.com is offering a 10 per cent discount on their Cycling Cuba trip. Don't think about it too long, travel must be booked before Dec. 31, 2012.

Ask your hotel what their optional fees are and ensure you are billed accordingly

Resort fees, early check in/late check outs, daily newspaper and internet charges on your room are all examples of fees you could avoid. If you can't live without your Facebook friends, go to a local wifi hot spot and log on for free.

Be loyal

Joining a loyalty program can lead to a whole range of value-added perks like free internet, a room upgrade at your hotel and eventually the option to redeem your stash of accumulated points for a free vacation. Not all

loyalty programs are created equal, so do your research when signing up. The bank rewards programs tend to be the best.

Book early or book late

If you know exactly where you want to go then don't hesitate to take advantage of any early booking bonuses you may find.

By waiting until the last minute, you will find some great deals, but your choices will be very limited.

Playing the last minute game is only recommended for flexible travellers. Check out itravel2000.com's Daily Deals highlight list.

All-inclusive tip

"Consider giving up your weekend departure and going Wednesday to Wednesday as rates are often lower."



Try new travel options, like cycling in Cuba, which are often discounted to encourage travellers to give them a try. LAURAS12/FLICKR

New Fantasyland makes dreams come true

Disney. Fans of Florida's park have a new section to explore with the site's largest expansion in its history

Derrick Weitlich and his friend Leslie Martinez arrived at the Magic Kingdom at 5:40 a.m. last Thursday, wanting to be among the first to visit the park's New Fantasyland.

Getting up early was worth it, said these Melbourne, Fla., Disney fans, who estimated that they have visited the park some 180 times.

"I love Beauty and the Beast," said Martinez,

while standing in front of the new Gaston's Tavern restaurant. "And I'm very picky when it comes to details about Beauty and the Beast."

Martinez and Weitlich weren't disappointed. From the antlers lining the walls in the tavern to the animatronic Ariel in the Under the Sea Journey of the Little Mermaid ride, they were impressed with the New Fantasyland.

It's the largest expansion project in the park's 41-year history. The new spaces are built on what was once the site of the 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea experience, and the expansion doubles the size of the original Fantasyland.

The central Florida theme park near Orlando is blending classic Disney characters (like Dumbo, the flying elephant) and newer, popular hits (like The Little Mermaid) with the

Tradition lives on

For Disney traditionalists, never fear. Many of the park's longstanding beloved attractions like Cinderella Castle, and rides based on *It's a Small World* and *The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh*, remain open.

multimillion dollar expansion.

"It's really about immersing people in a number of stories, characters and music that they love," said Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Tom Staggs.

New Fantasyland sits just past Cinderella Castle, with two sections: Enchanted Forest, where visitors will find Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* and Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*, and Storybook Circus, which is inspired by the Disney film *Dumbo*.

Among the highlights: A ride called *Under the Sea — Journey of the Little Mermaid*, which tells Ariel's story, and *Enchanted Tales With Belle*, a walk-through experience that features a magical mirror and costumed characters.



Gaston's Tavern, part of the New Fantasyland, is inspired by *Beauty and the Beast*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Staggs said that the expansion allows families to "be a little more relaxed" while in the park, calling the spaces "more enjoyable."

Thursday's grand opening happened twice: Once for media and bloggers in front of Gaston's Tavern and then again on the steps of Cinderella Castle, with cheering park visitors. Staggs was joined by actress Ginnifer Goodwin, singer Jordan Peele and

Sparky, of course, Mickey Mouse. Sparky sang a medley of songs from Disney movies.

Two of the New Fantasyland's highlights have yet to open. A ride called *Seven Dwarfs Mine Train* is still under construction, as is *Princess Fairytale Hall* — where guests can go to meet all of their favourite Disney princesses at once.

Disney officials said the princess experience will open next year and the ride is expected to open in 2014.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CLUMPS...

NYC museum back in business

New York's South Street Seaport Museum reopened to visitors Monday for the first time since Superstorm Sandy hit the region and will launch two new exhibits Friday.

The museum, located at 12 Fulton St. in Lower Manhattan on the East River, is one of the last tourist attractions in the city to reopen. Also still closed to visitors are the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, which will

not reopen before 2013. The Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum on the Hudson River is also still closed.

Flooding from Sandy, which hit at the end of October, destroyed electrical and heating systems in many building basements in the South Street area. The Seaport's Pier 17 has reopened and New York Water Taxi service has resumed there, but many businesses and shops

remain closed.

The Seaport neighbourhood's cobblestone streets, preserved 19th century buildings and tall-masted historic vessels anchored at Pier 17 create an evocative glimpse of New York's old waterfront and is a popular tourist destination.

The historic vessels and the Seaport museum's collections and exhibits were not damaged, but the museum's mech-

anical, heating and electrical systems were shut down. For now, visitors must use stairs as its escalators and elevators are still not operating. Heat is being blown into the building from heaters located on the street.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The ROM turns into a hot party spot one night a week in the fall and spring. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Revellers line up for a night at the museum

Party time. Two Toronto art and culture venues transform themselves into hip nightspots to attract younger patrons

A massive duck-billed dinosaur looms over the dance floor at one of Toronto's newest hot spots, overlooking the DJ churning out throbbing house music.

On the other side, a hulking Buddha sits cross-legged, its hands clasped in prayer.

It's Friday night and the Royal Ontario Museum is teeming with young women in minidresses and staggeringly high heels along with young men in collared shirts — outfits more often reserved for a night on the town than touring the natural history wing.

For one evening a week, the hallowed halls of one of Canada's largest museums shake off the mantle of for-

mality with a party that blends the buzz of a bar with the nerdy thrill of rare fossils, ancient suits of armour and other artifacts.

The adults-only celebrations are the latest effort by museum officials to lure young professionals with the most basic bait: music, food and, of course, alcohol.

Bars are scattered throughout the space, tucked between galleries and among towering dinosaur skeletons, while food-truck-inspired booths dish out cupcakes, tacos and fries.

"We want people to feel welcome in the museum and feel that they can come and explore," said Janet Carding, the museum's director and CEO.

"We've brought in an audience through this kind of programming who I don't think would have visited the museum in the same numbers otherwise," she said.

The original 10-week trial run this spring proved so popular that the museum revived the event, dubbed Fri-

If you go...

- **Buy tickets in advance.** At rom.on.ca/en/activities-programs/rom-friday-night-live or at tickets.ago.net. The parties sell out quickly and there are long lineups for tickets at the door. Cover for non-members is \$10; members pay \$8 at the AGO and get in free at the ROM.

day Night Live, for a second series in the fall. Another set is planned for May after a break for the winter, Carding said.

The ROM isn't the only Toronto museum to follow the path paved by its counterparts in New York, Sydney and elsewhere.

The Art Gallery of Ontario recently started hosting a boozy bash on the first Thursday of the month, adding a hands-on element with a free life drawing class with nude models.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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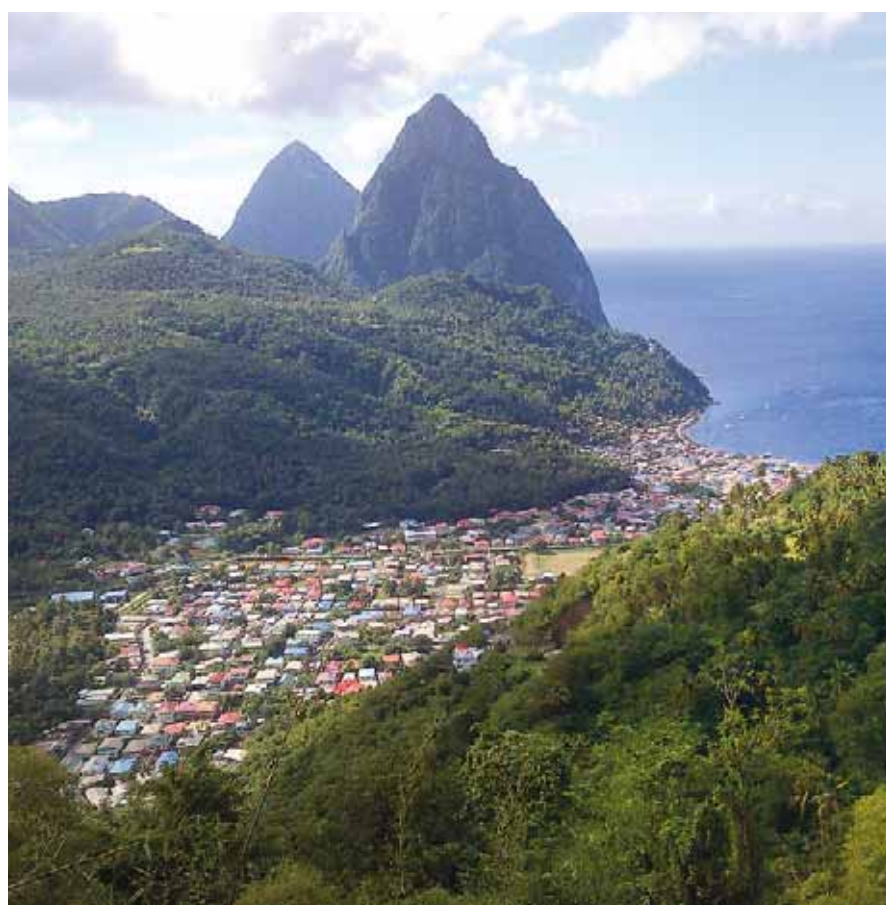
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There's more than sun in St. Lucia

Explore the island.

Once you've sipped your blended drink and kicked back on the beach, there's plenty more to entertain you

KATHY BUCKWORTH
life@metronews.ca

With average temperatures ranging between 22 C and 32 C, St. Lucia has long been a destination for sun seekers. But those who come for the sun and sand find that there is much more to this beautiful West Indies island. For those who tire of lounging at soft sandy beaches, gazing at the two Pitons (mountains) and sipping tropical drinks, it is well worth it to explore the island.

Chocolate infused cuisine

Cocoa is the second largest crop in St. Lucia (bananas being No. 1), and with the establishment of Chocolate Heritage Month in November, St. Lucia is becoming well-known for producing extremely high quality chocolate. The Hotel Chocolat, which exemplifies the infiltration of

chocolate, opened in March 2011 as an extension of the extremely successful Hotel Chocolat U.K. brand. The hotel offers a "tree to bar" tour which has participants harvesting a bean, going through the fermenting, drying, and roasting process, turning the chocolate nibs into paste and then liquid chocolate takes it full circle. The chocolate nibs from the cocoa pods are used in most of the menu offerings at their gourmet restaurant Boucan, including a chocolate grinder settled next to the salt and pepper. Their spa, like many others, includes several chocolate treatments. The Treetop Spa at the Sugar Beach resort down the road offers a chocolate mint massage treatment in one of their seven treetop treatment rooms, which of course should be followed by a decadent chocolate dessert in their beachside gourmet restaurant, Bayside. Cap Maison also offers a tapas-style menu which includes many cocoa-infused dishes.

Outdoor adventure activities

St. Lucia's lush landscapes are beautifully maintained in their very natural forms, allowing for some unique hiking opportunities up the Gros Piton (ironic-



Kathy Buckworth helps harvest cocoa pods. PROVIDED BY KATHY BUCKWORTH

ally the Petit Piton is not often climbed, due to its steepness). Most hotels offer guided hiking tours to the top for the fit and adventurous. At a lower altitude, the Caribbean Sea is a warm and crystal clear body of water, and most resorts offer sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and other water sports. For the even more adventurous, take advantage of being in an actual rainforest and visit Rainforest Adventures for ziplining through lush fauna and foliage. Start at 1,400 feet and zip down

to 600, through 3,442 acres of wildlife and forest. Mongoose, boa constrictors, wild pigs and more make noise and movement under your feet. There is an option to take a four hour guided hike with a trained guide, or for a slower pace, the tram ride provides a more stable ride to the top.

Customer service

Visits to several high end resorts on the island revealed that their staff to customer ratio is high. Former Jalousie

If you go...

- **Hotel Chocolat.** thehotel-chocolat.com
- **Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort.** viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/en/sugar-beach
- **Cap Maison.** capmaison.com
- **Rainforest Adventures.** rainforestadventure.com
- **WestJet.** Flies to St. Lucia twice weekly.

sie Plantation and now Sugar Beach Resort has 78 rooms/villas, with just fewer than 500 on staff, including 100 grounds people. The stunning cliffside Jade Mountain can handle approximately 60 guests and has 200 staff, including a personal butler assigned to each room. The Hotel Chocolat with eight villas and six lodges has 150 staff at their guests' service. At Sugar Beach, one need merely wave the red drink flag to have service appear in seconds by the pool. At Cap Maison resort, the "Champagne Zipline" has proven to be an instant hit.



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Drink of the Week

Uchuva Cocktail

- 150 grams whole uchuva (cape gooseberries)
- 150 ml water
- 150 g sugar
- 360 ml gin
- 540 ml sparkling wine, cold
- 18 uchivas, for muddling
- 24 mint leaves, for muddling
- 220 grams of ice
- Mint sprigs, for garnish

To make syrup, combine sugar and water in saucepan and cook over medium heat until sugar completely dissolves. Cool syrup in freezer. Combine uchivas and syrup in blender and process on high 1 min. Pass mix through fine mesh strainer and discard solids. In pitcher, combine 180 ml of uchuva syrup, mint leaves and 18 uchivas and muddle, 2 mins. Strain syrup and discard mint and uchuva pulp. Add gin and ice to syrup and stir 1 min. to chill; strain out ice. To serve, add sparkling wine, stir and divide the cocktail into 6 champagne flutes. Decorate each flute with a mint sprig.

PROEXPORT COLOMBIA



A very Colombian Christmas

Although many Canadian families have classic traditions for this time of year, it can be fun to spice things up with recipes from international hot spots.

Known for its historical urban centres, stunning beaches and Spanish nightlife, Colombia also has a lot to offer — even in the kitchen.

The country boasts scrumptious yuletide dishes that even the most amateur chef can prepare to impress guests by turning a typical holiday party

Ingredients

- 150 g uchuva (cape gooseberry), chopped
 - 50 g pistachio, finely chopped
 - 15 g cilantro, finely chopped
 - 50 g shallot, finely chopped
 - 50 ml extra virgin olive oil
- For the pork:**
- Pork tenderloin, cleaned
 - Salt and black pepper
 - 30 ml sunflower or grape seed oil
 - 60 g butter
 - 100 g uchuva, sliced
 - 12 g thyme
 - 8 garlic cloves
 - 12 uchivas, thinly sliced for garnish

Pork Tenderloin and Uchuva Pesto



Wow your guests with the use of uchuva (gooseberry) in this main dish. PROEXPORT COLOMBIA.

into the ultimate fiesta. One of them is this Pork Tenderloin and Uchuva Pesto.

The “cape gooseberry,” commonly known in Colombia as uchuva, can be found in local grocery stores.

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F (205 C).

2. In bowl, combine the first five ingredients to prepare the

uchuva pesto and set aside.

3. Slice the pork tenderloin into 6 portions and season with salt and black pepper.

4. Heat a heavy oven-proof skillet on high heat for 2 minutes and add half of the oil. Sear 3 portions of tenderloin and cook until brown on one side. Turn to sear the other side and add half of the sliced uchivas,

butter, thyme and garlic and allow the butter to melt completely in the pan.

5. Lower the heat to low. Tilting the pan forward, cover the tenderloins with the butter-uchuva mixture for 2 minutes. Place on a plate, clean skillet and repeat cooking procedure for the other portions of meat.

6. Place the first three portions

back on the skillet and place in the oven. Cook for approximately 10 to 12 minutes. Remove the skillet from the oven and place the tenderloins on a rack to cool for 10 minutes.

7. Place the pork slices on a serving platter. Cover generously with the uchuva pesto and garnish with thinly sliced uchuva.

PROEXPORT COLOMBIA

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Student voice

All that I've gained from getting involved

Kelsey Goforth
Graduate
Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political
Science
University of Toronto
TalentEgg.ca

What's your school-to-work transition story?

While pursuing my undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto, I studied political science with an emphasis on human rights and international development. This past summer I was finishing up my final credit and was searching for the perfect summer job that would hopefully lead me

into a career field directly related to these interests.

I was aware that a company called Public Outreach fundraised for developmental and human rights organizations and I had always been intrigued by the fundraisers that I had seen, but didn't picture myself taking on such a role.

However, on the advice of a friend, I applied. The role definitely surprised me. I had no idea how much I would be learning about various not-for-profit charities and how many amazing conversations I would have with donors. One highlight is when I met a woman from Zimbabwe who actually received aid from one of the charities I was fundraising for.

The position turned into far more than a summer job when roles in the recruit-

ment department opened up. I began applying and eventually, in August, I took on the role of U.S. Recruiter, where I was responsible for recruitment in Boston, Chicago, New York City and Minneapolis. I was able to transition quite quickly to my new role, going from fundraiser to recruiter in three short months. Being able to learn about the inner-workings of a whole new department has given me the opportunity to better understand and appreciate all that the company does.

What am I doing now?

I am currently in my fourth month as a Public Outreach Recruiter. In addition to my U.S. recruitment duties, I also contribute blog posts to our staff website. Outside of work, I like to pursue



Kelsey Goforth. PROVIDED

other interests that not only appeal to me but also give me an additional skill set to include on resumes and applications. I write articles for TalentEgg and, additionally, I am beginning French courses in January in order to receive a certificate in french proficiency. Although

I currently have a job, I do not want to prevent myself from continuing to learn more and develop my skills.

My recommendations for employers, career centres and schools

When it comes to campus career centres and their related programs, it is important to be well-advertised and easily accessible. Students are busy with classes and extra-curriculars, so having flexible hours is imperative. Secondly, many programs at schools aren't given the exposure they deserve. Often students are bombarded with information in their first year, however by the time fourth year rolls around and the job search becomes more intense, these programs are long forgotten about. When students

approach their final years of education, universities and colleges should remind them that there is plenty of guidance and resources available.

My advice for students and recent graduates

- Get involved: As a student, it is important to think beyond essays and exams, and also take the time to get involved in your community. I personally found extra-curricular activities and volunteering to be extremely beneficial — both when it came to developing new skills as well as seeking employment.

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'Tis the season to act responsibly. Use holiday party time to your professional advantage

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In this season of merriment and good cheer, it's easy to forget that you have to remain professional at your office holiday party.

I've seen my fair share of holiday party disasters, and while some blunders can be laughed off the next day, some can ruin your career and reputation.

On the flip side, holiday parties can be a chance to enhance your career. You will likely get the chance to socialize with people in other departments that you don't regularly encounter during your workday. If you're lucky, you may even

get face time with company executives.

You won't be able to take advantage of these networking opportunities if you're dancing on a speaker, and you don't want to find yourself the subject of water cooler gossip the following week. Above all, enjoy yourself responsibly and make an effort to strengthen relationships with your colleagues.

In the hopes of saving you from a painful fall from grace, I would like to share a list of holiday office party don'ts:

Don't down a bottle of Grey Goose

This rule is really the foundation of all others, but for some, it's quite hard to follow. The alcohol is usually flowing at these events and everyone is having a great time. It's easy to get caught up in the fun, but there is a fine line between enjoying yourself and passing out face-down in your chicken tetrazzini.

If you're going to drink,



Have a ball at the holiday bash, but don't do anything you'll regret when you drag yourself back to your desk come morning. ISTOCK

make sure you do it in moderation and plan to take public transit or a taxi home.

Don't seduce your co-workers

If you've failed to follow the first rule and find yourself a little too tipsy, you must, under no circumstances, wind up in a compromising situation with a co-worker.

A staggering number of hookups happen at work-related events, and this can affect

your job as well as your personal life. So please, stay away from the mistletoe.

Don't insult your co-workers

During the holidays, some individuals feel the need to express their true feelings about their co-workers, positive or otherwise. The holiday party is the worst possible place to share your grievances with a colleague, or more dangerously, declare to your boss, "I could do your job with my eyes closed!"

Say no to the smooch

"A staggering number of hookups happen at work-related events ... So please, stay away from the mistletoe."

Ashley Trahan
TalentEgg.ca

Don't take any of your clothes off

Someone once took me as a date to their company holiday party. Everyone was having a grand old time until one of the employees sprinted through the party completely naked. The streaker, as it turns out, had just put in his two weeks' notice and thought it would be a memorable farewell gift.

You can imagine the reference he would get from the human resources manager at this company. And therein lies an important lesson: You may not get fired immediately for an act

of youthful defiance or idiocy, but people have long memories for such incidents. This festive streaking episode of 2008 might come up in a reference somewhere down the road, and it certainly doesn't inspire confidence in his professionalism.

Don't discuss any topics of critical importance to your career

This is particularly important if you've bungled any of the above rules. If you've been wandering about in your boxers, it's best that you don't saddle up next to your boss at the bar and ask for a raise. When the booze is flowing, people will sometimes inexplicably bring up issues which are related to a promotion, raise or bonus. Save it for a more appropriate forum once you're back in the office on Monday.

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A holly, jolly and important opportunity

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MICHELLE
CIRCOSTA
Talentegg.ca

Employers everywhere are preparing for the holiday rush and they need all the help they can get.

As a student, seasonal employment can be a great opportunity to try your hand at a position you may have never otherwise considered. Anaar Merali, division director of permanent placements at staffing firm Robert Half International shared her perspective on the benefits of seasonal employment:

Get the job

To land a seasonal job, it's important that the employer knows you're available immediately and flexible. Make

it known that you are open to various types of positions.

"Be open and eager but not desperate," says Merali.

Keep an open mind

Working a seasonal job is the perfect opportunity to try working in a different industry and expand your professional network. Seasonal jobs are a fantastic way to get your foot in the door at a company where openings are less frequent.

For a recent grad in that transitional period, seasonal employment is a way to make some extra income instead of waiting around for permanent employment. And for students, it is an excellent way to make



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Reprint that resumé!

Jobs are everywhere

Seasonal opportunities go beyond just retail. There are several firms in the financial sector that will take on extra help during their busy seasons. Accounting firms, for example, will often hire seasonal employees during tax season. If you do your research and ask around, you will find that these jobs are anywhere and everywhere. Take advantage of busy seasons — the end of the quarter or the year means more potential jobs.

some much needed extra money during the holidays.

At the very least, you will have new and diverse experience to add your resumé. But what's more is these opportunities can often lead to permanent work. According to Merali, this happens quite frequently: "When people do such a good job, they often leave a huge impact."

Make the most of the opportunity

If your aim is to turn a seasonal job into full-time employment, the best thing you can do is leave an impression. Always

be very professional and build relationships with everyone — managers, supervisors, the entire staff. Approach all of your tasks as if your decisions will have a long-term impact. Don't get stuck in the mindset that the job is just temporary, otherwise you will ensure that it is. Be committed and engaged.

"Be sure to showcase your skills," says Merali. If you are a seamless fit for the position, the company will have no choice but to keep you around. Demonstrate that you would be an asset to the company as a whole and that your skills are transferable between departments. Look at it and as an

extended interview. If you are fortunate enough to have this chance, challenge yourself to think big.

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CONVENIENCE AND VARIETY

GIFT CARDS GIVE RECIPIENTS OPTIONS

Michael Bennett is an occasional gift card giver.

"I sometimes give them as thank you gifts or stocking stuffers," says the Guelph, Ont., man. "They're convenient and easy to give. The downside of them is they're easy to rely on them rather than discovering what someone likes and choosing a gift they would appreciate."

What is it about gift cards that we love so much? Is it the fact that we can buy them virtually anywhere? At a variety of price points in a variety of outlets?

"People generally know what type of store their friends or kids like to shop at," says Frances Ho, founder of Canadian site cardswap.ca. "However, they don't know specifically what sweater they prefer or the right pair of jeans. People are very particular about those things. It's just easier to give a card to a store they know

they're going to enjoy."

While Ho believes it's more socially acceptable to give gift cards, she does believe it makes a difference in how you present it as a gift.

"If you combine a gift card with a really nice written message in the card, or wrapping it in a big box, it's really the effort that counts. Then it still has a warmth to it," she says.

They are also a nice way to give something to a gift that's too pricey.

"That's another benefit — if they're saving up for a larger item and the person can't afford to give you the large item, but they can give you a gift card towards," Ho says.

Gift cards do have their drawbacks, of course. Some come with expiry dates for example.

"And a lot of people tend to spend

more money when they spend their gift cards because they treat it like it's free cash. And then they end up spending more than they actually budgeted for," Ho says.

However, you can make your gift card dollar stretch by watching for sales or deals — buy a gift card and pick up a gift for yourself for free, for example. Or re-gift a card that's not a fit for you or take it to a site such as cardswap.ca where you can trade your card in for points or cash.

"We see a variety of gift cards come in and whenever we post things on the site, they're gone within 24 hours because someone else wants that card," Ho says.

— Astrid Van
Den Broek



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SECRET SANTA GIFT IDEAS

It's that time of year — you are buying presents for friends, family, and that one quiet guy at the office. Office gift exchanges often mean you are shopping for people you barely know. To help, the staff from Canada's largest bargain hunting site, RedFlagDeals.com, have put together some secret Santa tips:

BOSS: Buying presents for your boss can be awkward. Choose a meaningful gift instead of something fancy or expensive. Fun gifts like a framed photo from a work event or a batch of gourmet cookies to share are a good start.



NEWS CANADA PHOTO

NEW PERSON: This one is tougher. Keep an eye on what the new person likes to eat. If they come into the office every day with a large coffee, put together a nice mug, a coffee shop gift certificate and some chocolate-covered espresso beans for the ultimate gift.

INTERN: Usually, "intern" is a code word

for "underpaid." Skip the gag gifts and get your intern something useful like movie passes.

RECEPTIONIST: If there is one thing a receptionist has enough of, it's office supplies. Skip the stationery and treat them to a deluxe gift basket, a gift certificate to the local salon for a manicure/pedicure

combo, or a good book.

IT/HELP DESK: Treat the people who fix your computer well. Something like a gift certificate to their favourite restaurant will work. If you want to be a bit more creative, observe what they decorate their desk with and get them something that fits in. — News Canada



finding the perfect gift for the people you know, and those you kinda know: **priceless**

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WALMART GIFT CARDS OFFER GREAT PRICES, CHOICES

Wondering what to give the mail carrier, the dog walker, your child's teacher, or the co-worker whose name you picked in the secret Santa draw? Or pretty much anyone on your holiday gift list? Thanks to Walmart, there's a simple solution.

"When you give a Walmart gift card, you're giving the gift of great prices and choices," says Felicia Fefer, Walmart Canada's manager of corporate affairs.

The beauty of giving a Walmart gift card is the person receiving it can choose to use it for whatever they want the most, from fashion and electronics to food and housewares.

There are more than 30 holiday gift card designs, ranging from contemporary (gold, white and purple snowflakes on a purple background) to traditional (holiday bells) and whimsical



(cartoon of Santa and friends on a sleigh).

The collection also features cards with specialty finishes, including lenticular cards (where you hold the card still and see one design, then tilt it to view a second design) and scratch 'n' sniff cards (gingerbread is an appropriate scent at this time of year).

There are even cards for pet lovers, with cute images of cats and dogs decked out in holiday accessories.



FLEXIBLE PRICING

Located at the cash registers and near the front of the more than 370 Walmart stores across Canada, the gift cards come with a pre-set amount of \$25, \$50 or \$100. Or you can choose the dollar amount — anywhere from \$5 to \$2,500 — which the cashier will load onto the card.



The gift cards have matching tin carriers that retail for \$2.47 each, so no wrapping is necessary. The tins have colourful contemporary Christmas designs that include a red-nosed reindeer pulling a sleigh, Santa with his sack of toys, a pile of gifts under a tree, and blue snowflakes on a white background.

Walmart gift cards can be bought at one store and redeemed at any other store location in Canada. Bonus: When the recipient has spent the amount on the card, it can be reloaded and reused. And the

best part? There are no expiry dates.

The holiday-themed cards will be for sale right up until the stores close on Christmas Eve — ideal for last-minute

shoppers who still have no idea what to get some of the people on their gift list.

"Walmart gift cards are popular all year long, but especially during the holidays," Fefer says.

"They're the perfect present for those who are hard to shop for or who have everything."

— Jane Doucet

Shopping for the person who has everything?



Give the gift of choice with a Walmart gift card.

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ONE CARD: MANY GIFT OPTIONS

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It's easy to get caught in the last-minute Christmas shopping bind — the stores are crazy, you are running out of time, and you aren't even sure what to buy for the friends and family who are left on your list.

What do you get a teenager who seems to change her style very week? What about the dog walker, the paper boy, your husband's cousin who is coming for Christmas dinner ... and what about your son's kindergarten teacher?

Let's face it, everyone has tough-to-buy-for people on their list and what makes it even tougher is the fact there are so many choices. From the newest high-tech gadgets to the latest must-have fashions, gift giving is just so much more difficult than it used to be.

So why not simplify your life and pick up prepaid Vanilla MasterCard and Vanilla Visa Cards for everyone left on your list.

These flexible, convenient cards are a great one-stop shop idea that puts the selection of gifts completely into the hands of the recipient, whether they shop in

person or online.

What makes the cards even more convenient is the fact that they can be used anywhere MasterCard or Visa Cards are accepted, respectively, giving users the opportunity to purchase the exact gifts that they want.

"InComm Canada recently transitioned the Vanilla MasterCard and Vanilla Visa Prepaid Cards to a no-fee scheme. This means that, effective July 1, 2012, consumers will no longer incur monthly maintenance or card replacement fees after the card is activated. In addition, the balance on the card doesn't expire when



the card does. Foreign currency conversions fees do still apply on transactions made outside of Canada," says Karen Budahazy, general manager, InComm Canada.

Vanilla Prepaid cards are available at retailers across Canada, including

7-Eleven, Shoppers Drug Mart, Couche-Tard, Jean Coutu, E.B. Games, Longo's, Mac's Convenience Stores, Money Mart, and Pharmaprix.

Vanilla MasterCard and Vanilla Visa Prepaid cards are available in multiple denominations from \$25 to \$250. With a number of different attractive designs — some of which feature the popular baby series from Anne Geddes — there's

ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

Every weekday from Dec. 13-24, Vanilla MasterCard Prepaid Card will be giving away one daily prize of a \$100 Vanilla MasterCard Prepaid Card. On Dec. 24, one second prize of \$500 will be awarded, as well as one grand prize of \$1,000, each in Vanilla Visa Prepaid Cards. Enter online by Dec. 23 vanillaprepaidcards.com.

No purchase necessary. Open to legal residents of Canada of the age of majority. Limit one entry/daily prize per person. Odds of winning a daily prize depend on when you enter and the number of eligible entries received for each draw. Odds of winning second prize or grand prize depend on the number of eligible entries received during the promotion. Math skill-testing question required. Official rules at vanillaprepaidcards.com.

always a "perfect gift" for everyone when you give the gift of choice.

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PERFECT GIFTS ARE IN THE CARDS

SEARS CREATES SPECIAL EDITION GIFT CARDS

Sears Canada is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Sears Wish Book with lots of holiday gift ideas, a national network of festively-decorated stores, and 24/7 shopping at sears.ca.

"To celebrate the 60th year of its famous catalogue, Sears Canada has created a collection of special edition gift cards, one highlighting images of past Wish Book covers that is certain to stir memories from everyone's childhood," says Daniela Chiasson, director of gift cards at Sears Canada.

Other holiday designs on Sears gift cards range from snowflakes to reindeer, and the cards are available in a range of denominations from \$10 up to \$500 in stores (at cash counters), online at sears.ca and through the catalogue. There are no expiry dates or activation fees and they can easily be redeemed at any Sears store, online and through the catalogue.

They can also be applied towards home services and other in-store specialty services such as Sears Travel, Sears Optical and Sears Portrait Studios.

"It's the ideal gift for that 'hard to shop for' person," Chiasson says.

Making wishes come true is a theme with Sears, and one of the nicest gifts to put under the Christmas tree this year is a plush Cooper the Bear and a Sears Cooper the Bear Gift Card.

"The Cooper Bear is Sears' annual charity plush," Chiasson says. "Cooper is also featured on a limited edition gift card that celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Sears Wish Book."

What makes Cooper extra special is that \$2 from every purchase of the bear will be donated to the Sears

SHOP VIA THE IPAD APP

Sears 60th anniversary Wish Book is the first catalogue on its "shop-able" Sears iPad Catalogue app.

"It's fun, interactive and can make Christmas shopping easier than ever," says Daniela Chiasson, director of gift cards at Sears Canada.

The app features a smart pinch and zoom function as well as a simple, intuitive navigation and browsing experience. Your family can create wish lists, bookmark catalogue pages and share products via email, Twitter or Facebook.

Download the iPad Sears Catalogue app via the Apple iTunes App Store or sears.ca/app.

Canada Charitable Foundation, which supports programs that promote the healthy development of youth in Canada.

Here are some other great gift ideas from Sears for the holidays:

- At searsgiftcards.ca, upload your favourite family photo and print it on a gift card of any denomination for a personalized gift. Sears will also mail the card in a gift box if you wish.
- There are a wide variety of other gift cards available in-store such as iTunes, Petro-Canada, Chapters Indigo, or long distance calling cards.
- Sears has partnered with Lifeexperiences.ca to offer unique gifts such as a spa day, wine tasting or hand-gliding adventures.
- Reward employees or surprise clients with a Sears Incentive Gift Card in any denomination from \$5 to \$500 (volume rebates available). Businesses can call 1-866-297-5306 or visit searsincentives.ca.

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Niagara's Finest Inns are top-quality, value-added venues that put guests first. Centrally located, comfortable, modern, and inclusive, all three properties have built followings among couples young and old.

Yet they are very different. Voted one of Ontario's most romantic hotels, Harbour House offers you and that special someone

a luxurious and private space in which to reconnect. It even has an up-to-date DVD library, should you wish to stay in. The Shaw Club Hotel & Spa, meanwhile, is 21st-century chic. Clean lined and coolly lit, this hotel offers a fitness room among its many amenities. It's also across the street from the Shaw Festival Theatre.

If your tastes lean classic, the Charles Inn may be the perfect place to rest your head. A refurbished Georgian-style manor house built in 1832, the inn's bygone-era charm is complemented by modern conveniences, including Wi-Fi.

These properties are walking distance apart, which means guests have easy access to the Shaw Club's decadent Shaw Spa, along with Zees Grill and the Charles Inn Restaurant — hotspots that proudly serve only VQA wines.

You can make a gift of all this for your

special someone — this Christmas or any time — with one of Niagara's Finest Inns' customizable gift cards. You choose the hotel or restaurant where the card will be used and the amount.

You can even tie the card to a special package. All three hotels offer themed packages designed to make the most of your time away — like the Just Say

Yes package: A two-night stay that includes a 30-minute carriage ride, a rose-petal accented suite, and even a kneeling pillow.

It's Just Us Gals, another popular package, treats you to time at The Shaw Spa, plus passes to Peller Estates Winery's "Chicks & Chocolate" food and wine pairing seminar, and more.

Escape to Wonderland offers you a relaxing mix of good food (including



Shaw Spa

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

homemade truffles), spa treatments, and wine-tasting opportunities. It's designed especially for the weekday tourist — a great reminder that Niagara-on-the-Lake, and the fine accommodations you will find there, are only a short drive from Toronto.

To purchase a gift card for one of these packages, or for a particular hotel or restaurant, phone 1-800-474-0632. You can also email inquire@niagarasfinest.com, or visit in person.

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Soccer. Awards continue to rush in for Sinclair

It really should be called the Christine Sinclair Award.

Sinclair, the scoring machine of Canada's Olympic bronze medal-winning soccer team, has won the country's top female soccer award.

The 29-year-old native of Burnaby, B.C., was named the female Canadian player of the year on Tuesday in a vote by the country's media and coaches.

The prize comes a day after Sinclair was named winner of the 2012 Lou Marsh Award as Canada's top athlete.

"Her instrumental role on

By the numbers

9

Christine Sinclair has won the Canadian female player of the year award in nine straight years and 10 times since 2000.

the international playing field has brought an overwhelming sense of national pride to Canadian soccer fans," Justine Fedak of BMO Financial Group, sponsors of the player of the year awards, said in a statement. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

MLB

Jays sign 3 pitchers, 2 infielders to minor-league deals

The Blue Jays added depth and ensured there will be competition at spring training with the signing of five players to minor-league contracts Monday.

Three of the players, Claudio Vargas, Richard Thompson and Juan Perez, are pitchers while the other two — Eugenio Velez and Luis Jimenez — are infielders.

All are invited to spring training. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

NBA. Cavs' Irving helps send Lakers to another loss

Kyrie Irving scored 28 points after missing 11 games with a broken finger, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 100-94 win over the Los Angeles Lakers, who dropped to a new low Tuesday night in a tumultuous season.

Irving added 11 assists in 39 minutes as the Cavs ended a five-game losing streak.

Kobe Bryant scored 42 and Dwight Howard had 19 points and 20 rebounds, but it wasn't enough to stop the Lakers from losing for the eighth time in 11 games. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Cavs guard C.J. Miles shoots over the Lakers' Dwight Howard on Tuesday in Cleveland. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Raptors down and almost out

NBA. Hard-luck hoopsters a mess as pre-season optimism completely erased by dismal performance

This was the day the Raptors were supposed to exhale, to be thankful they survived a terrible schedule to start the season, to catch their breath, to start making a move up the Eastern Conference standings.

Instead, there are those involved with the team who are holding their breath, wondering what can be done to shake up a team whose hopes for even a mediocre season are slipping away rapidly.

They come home to play three games in a row and five of six at Air Canada Centre. Normally that would be reason for some optimism. Now it's a matter of trying to find some way — any way — to win a game.

The season — as a 4-18 record would attest — has been an abject failure at this point. The Raptors have lost when they've been leading late, they've lost after fighting back, they have lost close games, they have

Weeks ahead

If the Raptors are to salvage anything, the next few weeks will be telling.

- They have three tough home games this week against Brooklyn, Dallas and Houston.
- A road game in Cleveland and home dates with Detroit and Orlando follow before the holidays hit.

dropped blowouts.

The only consistent has been the losing that's cast a pall over the entire franchise.

"We looked at numbers in those situations, we look at statistics, we look at lineups trying to find the right one and that's been our biggest Achilles' heel except for a couple of games," coach Dwane Casey said before Monday night's 92-74 pasting at the hands of the Portland Trail Blazers that capped a 0-5 western road trip.

The reasons for Toronto's failings are numerous — defensive lapses one night, offensive woes the next, missed shots, turnovers, bad breaks, bad play — that it's impos-



Raptors forward Andrea Bargnani holds his elbow as teammates Jonas Valanciunas, second from left, Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan gather around on Monday night in Portland, Ore. **GREG WAHL-STEPHENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

sible to pinpoint one area that needs more improvement than others.

The team knew that somehow surviving a grind of 15 road games in the first 22

would be difficult.

But the most dire predictions and hopes from those on the inside were seven wins, maybe eight, possibly nine. Four was out of the question

and maybe few enough to have buried them once and for all even in the mediocre Eastern Conference, even at this early date in the season.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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4 goalies fight for high-pressure junior job

World junior selection camp. Canada will take three goaltenders to Russia as insurance against injury

No goalie feels more pressure at the world junior hockey championship than Canada's starter, says the man cultivating the next one.

Ron Tugnutt is the Canadian team's goaltending coach and has personally experienced that kind of pressure. In addition to a long NHL career, Tugnutt twice represented Canada at the men's world championship.

"There's a lot more pressure on our goalie than on the other teams," Tugnutt said Tuesday at selection camp in Calgary.

When European teams win

Quoted

"Contrary to belief, there's no starting job being given out, I can tell you guys that."

Canadian juniors head coach Steve Spott on the goalie competition at selection camp.

the semifinal, they're thrilled at the prospect of "at least" a silver medal, but Canadian players aren't interested in anything but gold, he explained.

"When we win the semifinal game, we're only thinking one thing," Tugnutt added.

With no incumbent from the previous world junior championship, a major subplot of selection camp in Calgary this week is who will be Canada's starter, backup and alternate at the 2013 world junior championship starting Dec. 26 in Ufa, Russia.

In a new development, Canada will take a third goalie as insurance against injury because of the travel time required to get to south-central Russia.

Malcolm Subban of the Belleville Bulls, Laurent Brossoit of the Edmonton Oil Kings, Jordan Binnington of the Owen Sound Attack and Jake Paterson of the Saginaw Spirit are the four invitees. There's little time for them to impress head coach Steve Spott as the 23-player team will be finalized Thursday afternoon.

Spott tried to dampen speculation that Subban, the younger brother of Montreal Canadiens defenceman P.K. Subban, has the inside track on the starting job because he

Weak link?

- Like a CFL quarterback or the skip of a curling team, Canada's goaltenders can get more blame and more credit than they deserve for the outcome a game.
- But there is a sense that goaltending has been a weak link for Canada at the last three tournaments with silver in 2010 and 2011 and bronze this year in Alberta.

plays on European-sized ice at Belleville's Yardmen Arena.

After four years on North American ice, the world junior tournament returns to a surface four metres wider with just over a half-metre more space between the back of the net and the end boards.

Tugnutt says Subban's big-ice experience is one check mark in his favour.

"I think it is an advantage for him just because it is a different visual," Tugnutt said. "But that's not going to be the determining factor on what happens here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Belleville Bulls goalie Malcolm Subban, from Rexdale, stretches on Tuesday during the Canadian junior hockey team selection camp in Calgary. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Wilson standing tall in Seattle



Quarterback Russell Wilson watches from the sidelines during Sunday's 58-0 win over the Arizona Cardinals in Seattle. OTTO GREULE JR./GETTY IMAGES

NFL. Diminutive pivot playing over his head as Seattle club travels to Toronto to face Bills

Ever since high school, people have told Russell Wilson he's too short to play quarterback.

It's a familiar refrain in university- and pro-football recruitment discussions, a shortcoming routinely parroted by pundits of the sport. Quarterbacks shorter than six-feet can't see over the hulking offensive line, goes the logic: the balls they throw will get batted down by towering defenders, they won't be able to see or read the defence.

There's always one or two though, who manage to break through to the big leagues. This year, Wilson has done that in a big way.

Every step of the way, through college football on to his spectacular rookie perform-

Success carrying over

Last year, Russell Wilson was elected team captain, and went on to win the 2012 Rose Bowl with the Wisconsin Badgers. He finished the year with the best-ever single-season passer rating (191.8) in the NCAA's Football Bowl subdivision.

- After a 58-0 blowout win against the Arizona Cardinals last week that set franchise records for points and margin of victory, the 24-year-old leads the NFL in quarterback rating at home, with a score of 122.0.

ance this season in the NFL, Wilson has defied conventional wisdom.

His Seattle Seahawks will be in Toronto on Sunday to face the Buffalo Bills at the Rogers Centre.

"Knowing Russell, this is a challenge," said Wilson's high school coach Charlie McFall about his former player's height.

"He knows he's got a lot of God-given talent, and he's not going to rest on that," said the coach in Richmond, Va. "Nobody's going to outwork him."

At five-foot-11, Wilson's height was widely seen as a major disadvantage before this season's NFL draft, even after a stellar career in the NCAA. He was selected by Seattle in the third round, 75th overall.

Wilson's lack of height dogged him when he was looking to play ball at university, too. His first choice was the University of Virginia, but he ended up playing for North Carolina State because Virginia wanted a tall quarterback.

"It is an uphill battle for anyone who doesn't fit the mould," said Will Hewitt, director of player development with a national training program called the Quarterback Academy.

But Hewitt doesn't necessarily buy the standard critique of smaller QBs. Shorter players can be successful — look at Doug Flutie, he says.

Under head coach Pete Carroll, the young gun has led the Seahawks into playoff position with an 8-5 record, and his name has now entered the conversation as a contender for Offensive Rookie of the Year.

But if his Twitter feed is any indication, the devout Christian is simply happy to be where he is. On Monday, he wrote: "Woke up this morning, blessed to be a Seahawk and to be a Rookie in this great league."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NFL

Saints bounty bans overturned on appeal

Finding fault with nearly everyone tied to the New Orleans Saints' bounty case, from the coaches to Roger Goodell, former NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue tossed out the suspensions of four players Tuesday and condemned the team for obstructing the investigation.

In a surprising rejection of his successor's overreaching punishments, Tagliabue wrote that he would "now vacate all discipline to be imposed upon" two current Saints, linebacker Jonathan Vilma and defensive end Will Smith, and two players no longer with the club, Browns linebacker Scott Fujita and free-agent defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove.

Tagliabue essentially absolved Fujita, but did agree with Goodell's finding that the other three players "engaged in conduct detrimental to the integrity of, and public confidence in, the game of professional football."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crosby and Co. sticking together through lockout

Brooks Orpik had a good reason to head back to Pittsburgh after spending the first three months of the NHL lockout in Massachusetts, and the Penguins' defenceman insists it had nothing to do with optimism he and the rest of his teammates are closer to getting back to work.

"I didn't have snow tires on my car, so I was like, 'If I wait this out any longer I'm going to get stuck here and not have a car down in Pittsburgh,'" Orpik said. "It was really just a change of scenery."

Quoted

"I think one thing that's the same all the way through is that guys are trying to do their best to stay ready and they're trying to make the best of the situation."

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby

Orpik wasn't alone. He carpooled down to Pittsburgh with Tyler Kennedy, and a little bit of peer pressure convinced forward James Neal to join the handful of Penguins who have been working out regularly at

the team's practice facility.

"It's just something different to stimulate you," Orpik said.

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby has been a fixture at the workouts and having 15 players

in all — including a couple of non-Penguins — allowed Crosby and company to pick up the pace a little bit.

While Crosby has long since stopped guessing when the NHL's labour dispute will end, he remains hopeful hockey will return at some point.

"The fact that they're talking is good and I think we've all said that throughout this process, it's better than sitting around and not knowing what everyone is thinking," Crosby said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Penguins players, from left, Pascal Dupuis, Sidney Crosby, Ben Lovejoy and Tyler Kennedy workout on Oct. 11 in Canonsburg, Pa. KEITH SRAKOCIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Space

From front to back, the Flex appears as straight up and down as a shoebox, which is a major contributor to its overall roominess. Although its six, or seven, passenger layout is near tops in this segment, cargo space with the rear seats in place or folded completely flat is about average.



The Flex's dashboard

2013 Ford Flex

- **Type.** Four-door, front/all-wheel-drive, full size wagon.
- **Engines (hp).** 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (287), 3.5 litre DOHC V6, twin-turbocharged (365).
- **Transmission.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$32,150

Design

The Flex is mostly rectangular and has highly practical styling. Ford's designers made no attempt to disguise the vehicle's significant size, but for the 2013 model year they did devise a far more expressive nose consisting of a single brushed aluminum bar flanked by projector beam-style headlights.

Engine

The standard 3.5-litre V6 now makes 287 horsepower and 254 pound-feet of torque, a gain of 25 horses and six pound-feet from the 2012 engine. Optional is the returning 3.5-litre twin-turbocharged "EcoBoost" V6 rated at 365 (hp) and 350 pound-feet of torque, but only if it's fed premium-grade gasoline.

Review. If there's one vehicle that lives up to its name, this is it!

MALCOLM
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Wheelbase Media

Say what you will about the Ford Flex, this big-rig takes its people and cargo-carrying role seriously, but with a sly wink and a nod when the topic of styling is mentioned.

Wagon-style bodies are somewhat of a Ford specialty. Along with the Flex, three-row seating is offered in the full-size

Expedition and the Explorer, while the Edge, Escape and the passenger version of the Transit Connect cargo van provide space for five.

Among them, however, the Flex is unique. It sits low to the ground like a regular sedan and shares the same platform with the Lincoln MKT wagon. That's preferable for those who want to access their vehicle without using a stepladder.

For 2013, Ford has upgraded the Flex in other ways, including the availability of second-row seatbelts that act a bit like airbags and inflate within 40 milliseconds of a crash. Additional extra-cost safety gear

consists of radar-based adaptive cruise control that keeps a steady distance from the vehicle in front, and blind spot information with cross-traffic alert that warns of overtaking vehicles and vehicles approaching from either side when backing out of a parking spot. Then there's curve control that can detect when the Flex is entering a turn too quickly and within a second applies braking force to slow the vehicle down by up to 16 km/h.

The Flex's three-model line up starts with the \$32,150 (including destination charges) SE that arrives fairly well equipped with all the usual accessories



The Flex can seat six or seven people depending on your order.

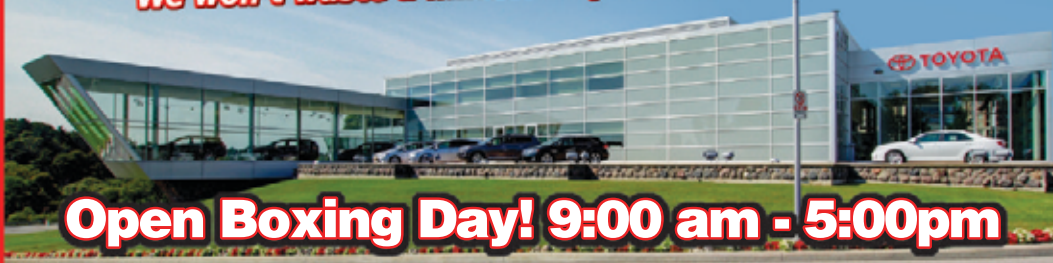
and gadgets.

The Flex's oversize dimensions and rectangular silhouette might give some buyers

pause, but if you're seeking something different, thinking inside the box could make this Ford the perfect fit.

5 DRIVE

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One of most accessible gifts you can get a car lover is a book. Local stores are stocked to the gills with them at this time of year and online sources can basically deliver them right to your door in a few days. However, what book to get is the tricky part. While it might be easy to simply pick up the first glossy-picture tome you see, getting a book with some actual words and a real story is what really gets us going. And that selection requires a little research. Well, we're your research. So, here are a few suggestions that are sure to beef up the library of any auto enthusiast.

JEFF MELNYCHUK

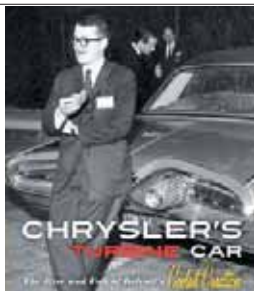
Wheelbase Media

1

ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

One cool Chrysler

Long before auto-makers began developing alternatives to piston-driven powerplants, Chrysler Corporation was working out the kinks for jet-style turbine power, although not to any satisfactory conclusion. Author Steve Lehto has documented these efforts in his book *Chrysler's Turbine Car*, *The Rise and Fall of Detroit's Coolest Creation*. Chrysler commissioned 55 of these jet-style turbine-engine cars and loaned them for testing by selected families throughout the United States. For a variety of reasons, Chrysler decided against turbine power and all but nine of the vehicles were destroyed



The 'Vette turns 60

Hard to imagine, but what is considered North America's first sports car turns 60 in 2013. Author Randy Leffingwell has considerable experience writing about the Corvette and produced a weighty coffee-table tome on the subject's 50th anniversary. His latest book expands on the topic and includes photos (many never before published), descriptions and considerable commentary on all six generations of Corvettes, from 1953 to the present day. Leffingwell also reviews the people who have influenced the car's development, including designers, engineers, marketers and racing drivers.



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More barn finds

Author Tom Kotter recently launched *The Corvette in the Barn*, a continuation of his *In the Barn* book series. The stories focus on when, where and how people have located rare and/or collectable vehicles that have been stashed away for years in barns, garages, warehouses and fields, etc. Many of the cars have a strong connection to the original, or bequeathed owners who, in most cases, are reluctant to part with their treasures. How they are finally convinced to part with these abandoned classics, which are restored to good running order makes for fascinating reading.



8

Colour your cars

Dover Publications' series of automotive-themed colouring books is perfect for whiling away the hours as you attempt to keep within the lines. The titles include *Classic Cars of the Fifties*, *American Muscle Cars*, *Racing Cars* and *Historic Automobiles*. Some also include key facts and statistics about the various vehicles and, in particular, the *Classic Racing Cars* book also includes the correct colour code for each illustration. The colouring books start at \$4 US each and can be purchased at doverpublications.com.

8 Automotive page turners

The racing actor

There are books about famous movie stars and books about famous auto racers, but rarely do the two disciplines converge. Paul Newman is one example, while Hollywood legend Steve McQueen, who died at age 50 from cancer in 1980, would be another. It was his 1971 portrayal as Porsche-pilot Michael Delaney in *Le Mans* (a movie he also produced) where McQueen displayed his absolute fanaticism for auto racing. Frédéric Brun's book *Steve McQueen A Passion For Speed* is full of behind-the-scenes photos of the actor/racer's obsession in front of the camera as well as participating in various racing events. It's \$40 US from motorbooks.com.



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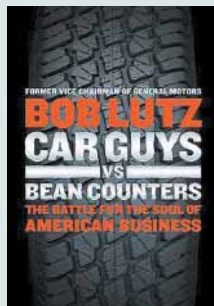
Who's the Boss?

The original Ford Mustang was perceived by the auto-maker as a blank canvas from which a competitive racing machine could be forged. Over the decades, the Boss attained cult status, with prices for the few original versions skyrocketing. Donald Farr's book *Mustang Boss 302: From Racing Legend to Modern Muscle Car*, traces the origins of the Boss project and picks up the story with the designation's return for the 2012 model year. If your recipient is in love with the look of the Mustang, then this book proves that it's more than just about cake-dressing.



Think like a car

One of the most famous men in the car biz is Bob Lutz, who was General Motors' product king right up until its bankruptcy a few years back. While it would be easy to toss Bob under the bus for his perceived role, his accounting of what actually happened might have you thinking differently. Bob Lutz's *Car Guys vs. Bean Counters* chronicles an ongoing battle with non-product types who actually shape product through cost cutting, a philosophy that nearly spelled doom for General Motors. This head-in-the-sand culture was apparently prevalent during Lutz's time as a General Motors executive.

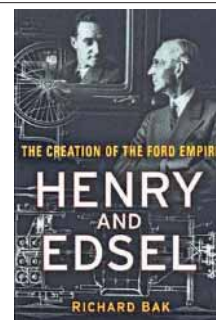


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Those founding Fords

Henry and Edsel: The Creation of the Ford Empire, by Richard Bak, delves into the background of one of the most famous inventor/moguls the world has ever known. Bak not only traces the genesis of the Ford company, but lays bare the often troubled and tempestuous relationship between Henry Ford and the son who predeceased him. Also covered is the relationship between the senior Ford and Harry Bennett, his right-hand man and the person who, as Ford's security director, was also frequently at odds with Henry's son.



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SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION



Motorcycle show big on the small

Autopilot



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

I wouldn't say there is anything wrong with an outrageously loud and over-powered Orange County chopper, especially to the weathered face and tattooed biceps of a large person who just got off such a bike in the parking lot. But bigger motorbikes are just not my style.

I love small motorcycles. They're fun to ride and easy to own. And I'm in the styling camp that gravitates to great proportions above all else, so to me, overall size has very little to do with the visual impact and/or appeal of any given bike or car.

So I was thrilled to see so many neat and smallish rides on the show floor of last weekend's motorcycle show in Toronto.

This is the show run

by the manufacturers, via its Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council (MMIC). After Toronto, the MMIC show makes stops in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Quebec, Moncton and Montreal. (Check local listings for dates and venues).

At last year's show, for example, you wouldn't have seen the new Suzuki GW250, or Honda's new CB500 line (CB500F, CB500X, CBR500R). Honda suddenly has a very attractive and logical progression of street bikes, in 125-cc, 250-cc and 500-cc formats.

"People want an affordable entry level motorcycle. That's where the market is going right now," said Dave Hawson, director of sales and marketing for Suzuki Canada's motorcycle, ATV and marine division.

Hawson added that a lot of the "affordability" of smaller bikes manifests itself in the insurance end, especially for younger and/or newer riders.

He's dead right. My small phone survey to brokers revealed that an 18-year-old



The hustle and bustle of the show. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

looking to insure a 600-cc sportbike in the GTA would be looking at premiums of about \$3,500 to \$4,000 and beyond. By contrast, that same 18-year-old rider could insure a 250-cc bike in the GTA for \$1,500 to



This model is part of Honda's new CB500 line.



The Suzuki GW250.

Market trend

"People want an affordable, entry level motorcycle. That's where the market is going right now."

Dave Hawson, director of sales and marketing for Suzuki Canada's motorcycle, ATV and marine division
On what the average recession-hit motorbike customer is looking for these days

\$2,000 — basically half the price.

At the show I ran into Dave Mackenzie of Motor-sports Canada, which imports the Wolf Classic 150 — a Honda Rebel knockoff with a 150-cc engine.

He felt that up until a

few years ago, the Canadian market was "starved" of small motorcycles.

He believed the big brands shied away from them here in North America, because there was simply more money to be found, per unit, in the larger bike formats.

I guess it's hard to say whether that was the case, or if it was simply a case of no one wanting to buy the smaller bikes back then.

But there is no denying, however, that the big brands are more aware and concerned than ever that their biggest group of motorcycles buyers — the boomers — are getting older and older and will soon fade from the scene and that they

need a new generation of buyers to get into motorcycling

Insurance and industry forces aside, I think people have also generally rediscovered the joys of smallish motorcycles, after years of chasing horsepower and their high-speed capabilities.

For those that like the bigger stuff, have no fear. The influx of smaller bikes has not diminished the number of variety of big, powerful bikes, in all their guises.

To each their own, I say, even if they are so wrong in their big-bike convictions that they can no longer be saved from them.

Even by me.

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2009 Honda Civic DX-G	Blue	4Door, AU, AC, ABS, PW/PL/PM, Stereo/CD, Alloys, Balance of Factory Warranty	39,574KM	90292	\$13,888
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Winter wipers always keep safety in sight



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Just like tires, it's wise to switch wipers when the cold kicks in to ensure maximum safety

JIL
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Your wiper blades are among the most critical safety features on your vehicle. If you can't see, you're not safe, and dirt builds up quickly in winter weather.

"Visibility is extremely important," says Graham Jeffrey, winter driving expert for Canadian Tire. "You want the wiper that will give you the best possible performance."

The claw structure, one of the oldest designs, uses a thin blade. A more modern design is the beam blade, which uses a wider wiper.

"Instead of pressure points like the claw structure, the beam maintains even pressure across the blade, which gives it a more consistent wipe," Jeffrey says.

"And with the claw structure, there are open spaces where you can get a lot of snow

build-up, which limits the wiper's ability to form to the windshield and give you a solid wipe."

At higher speeds, claw blades are more susceptible to wind, which can lift them off the glass and cause chatter. Beam blades are more aerodynamic and aren't as affected by this.

Just as you can put winter tires on your car, you can also switch to winter wiper blades. Originally these were claw blades with a rubber boot that prevented them clogging with snow.

Today's winter blades use a special rubber compound that stays supple at very low temperatures. Most will wear quickly in hot weather, so it's best to switch to regular blades in spring, and store these pricier blades until next winter.

"A beam blade on its own is not defined as a winter wiper blade," Jeffrey says.

"Beam blades have a significant advantage over a claw blade, and if you're only going to use one year-round, the beam blade is better. But when you get into a winter blade, you get that winter compound too."

When cleaning ice off your windshield, be careful not to

Rules

- **No dirty blades.** Always replace your wiper blades if they start to streak or leave dirty patches.
- **Choose correct fluid.** Use windshield washer fluid that's formulated for winter temperatures. If fluid freezes on the glass, you won't be able to see.
- **Double check wiper choice.** Some vehicles have two different sized wiper blades, due to the shape of the windshield, so be sure you're buying the right ones.

hit your wiper blades with the scraper. If the blades are stuck to the windshield, turn on the defrosters to help free them. If you just pull on them, they may tear.

And never shut off your engine with the wipers on: if they freeze to the glass, it could damage the wiper motor when you restart the car.

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Matrix S Package model shown. MSRP \$18,295.



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VENZA FWD

Venza V6 AWD. Touring Package model shown. MSRP \$30,460.

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2013
COROLLA CE

Corolla S with Hybrid model shown. MSRP \$23,950.

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2013
CAMRY LE

Camry SE model shown. MSRP \$25,400.

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General Sales Manager

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Limited time lease and finance offers available from Toyota Financial Services on approved credit. *All-in price of a new 2013 Matrix S (Model KU4EEM5)/2013 Venza AWD V6 (Model BK3B8TC)/2013 Corolla S (Model BU44EMB)/2012 Camry SE (Model BF1FSTA) is \$24,285/\$40,070/\$23,860/\$28,650. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable), HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. **All-in price of a new 2013 Matrix Manual (Model KU4EEMA)/2013 Venza FWD (Model ZA3B8TA)/2013 Corolla CE Manual (Model BU42EMA)/2012 Camry LE (Model BF1FLTA) is \$18,295/\$30,460/\$16,950/\$25,400. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable), HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. All-in price of a new 2013 Matrix Manual (Model KU4EEMA)/2013 Corolla CE Manual (Model BU42EMA) with an All-in price of \$18,295/\$16,950. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable), HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. 0%/0% purchase finance APR for 60/60 months equals a bi-weekly payment of \$135/\$125 for 130/130 bi-weekly payments with a down payment or trade equivalent of \$0/\$0, when you apply the \$750/\$750 Customer Incentive. Cost of borrowing is \$0/\$0, for a total obligation of \$135/\$125 for 130/130 bi-weekly payments with a down payment or trade equivalent of \$0/\$0, when you apply the \$750/\$750 Customer Incentive. Cost of borrowing is \$0/\$0, for a total obligation of \$135/\$125 for 130/130 bi-weekly payments with a down payment or trade equivalent of \$0/\$0, when you apply the \$750/\$750 Customer Incentive. Total lease obligation is \$13,121/\$22,250. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable), HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Based on a maximum of 100,000/100,000 KM. Additional KM charge of \$0.10/\$0.10 for excess kilometres, if applicable. \$8750/\$1,000/\$750 Customer Incentive on a new 2013 Matrix Manual/2013 Venza FWD/2013 Corolla CE Manual is valid on Toyota retail delivery (excluding fleet sales) when financed or purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Vehicles receiving Customer Incentives must be purchased, registered and delivered between December 1, 2012 and January 2, 2013. Offers are valid between December 1, 2012 and January 2, 2013, and are subject to change without notice. All rights are reserved. Dealer may sell for less. Please see your participating Ontario Toyota dealer for full details.



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A picture-perfect frame

Auto enthusiasts who are proud of their particular rides usually like to display photos of them in their homes and offices. Camasca Automotive Manufacturing Inc. has developed a realistic-looking licence plate picture frame. The frames are large enough to hold a 4 by 6-inch image and are available in a hand-polished mirror-bright finish or in black. In addition, the frames come with both hinged easel support and metal wall hanger for easy display. Each frame costs \$55 US plus shipping. To order, go to camincstore.com.

Tool chest for tykes

If your child or grandchild shares your passion for racing, the Tool Chest Dresser from The Step2 Company would make a fun piece of bedroom furniture. The dresser's 79 by 79 by 40 centimetre-deep molded double-wall poly construction should prove virtually kid-proof. Each of the four doors opens wide for easy access to clothing, toys, etc. that can be stored on or below the molded-in centre shelf. But the fun part is that each dresser includes a package of racecar sponsorship decals that you can apply wherever and however you want. The Tool Chest Dresser unit sells for \$100 US and can be purchased through step2.com/p/Tool-Chest-Dresser.



Pump up the volume...

Your significant other might not appreciate this old-style Black Gold Gas Pump CD/DVD holder placed in the living room or in another prominent spot in your home, so you'll likely have to locate it in your garage, rec room or home office. Either way, this 23 by 23 by 56-centimetre-tall cabinet from Asher Home Decorators will be a conversation magnet. The handmade, antiqued wood gas pump with embossed Black Gold logos comes with four built-in shelves for video/audio media storage, etc. This item retails for \$100 US and is available through asherhomedecorators.com.



Ask the auto 8 ball

When shaken or turned upside down, the Automotive Diagnostic 8 Ball from Automotive Video Inc. 8 Ball does what any 8 Ball does: It mystically and magically supplies an answer to an auto-related question. In this case, it will merrily determine what's ailing your vehicle, from the simple to the very expensive. And if you don't like its initial diagnosis, just shake it again and again until a more acceptable answer presents itself. Sounds like the ideal gift for the auto "expert" in the family. It's a bargain at \$15 US from auto-video.com.

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Find it difficult to keep your focus on the road?

Here's some help.

These handy extras will allow you to concentrate solely on what lies ahead when embarking on long or short journeys

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

"Eyes on the road, hands on the wheel" is a simple ideology when it comes to safety on the go. It's an ideology that affords drivers plenty of warning about upcoming hazards, and more time to react to avoid them.

It's especially important in wintertime, when icy roads and cold tires mean more time is needed to stop for or

steer around a situation.

If you haven't been in the new car market for a few years, you'll be delighted at the availability of once-expensive features that can help keep your attention on the road ahead.

A variety of high-tech, fully-automatic and voice-commanded systems, once reserved for high-dollar luxury cars, are now available on most models — allowing drivers to manipulate vehicle systems and functions without breaking their attention. Here are a few of the most important.

Rain-sensing wipers

At any sign of precipitation on the vehicle's windshield, rain-sensing wipers kick into action, adjusting their speed constantly in response to the level of precipitation. Whether its snow, ice or freezing rain, rain-sensing

wipers leave drivers one less thing to think about when the weather turns nasty.

Steering-wheel mounted controls

More cars than ever offer steering-wheel mounted controls as standard equipment. By putting controls for phone, cruise control, audio system and even climate control on the face of the steering wheel, drivers can control many functions without having to look down or move their hands.

Bluetooth

This wireless communications system is now standard and available in virtually every vehicle sold in Canada. Bluetooth puts the kibosh on driver distraction related to using a cell-phone on the move — allowing calls to be placed, accepted or dismissed via voice-command and a sin-



Steering wheel controls will keep your eyes on the road, nowhere else. HANDOUT

gle steering-wheel mounted button. If you're delayed by a snowstorm, Bluetooth allows you to safely call ahead and tell the family you'll be late, without pulling over or handling your handset.

Automatic climate control

Staying comfortable is a good way to avoid the stress caused by driving in lousy weather — and automatic climate control makes it easy. An automatic climate control system uses a sensor to constantly watch cabin temperatures and make adjustments in real time to maintain a pre-set temper-

ature. Your comfort is maintained for you automatically as you keep both hands on the wheel.

Automatic Lights

Simple concept, this one. When it gets dark, on their own. Forget accidentally driving around with just the running lamps, which is dangerous. Set the controls to AUTO, and you'll have optimal visibility at all times. Best of all, since automatic lights turn off when you leave the car, you'll never come back to a dead battery in the middle of

winter, either. Some models, like the Chrysler 300 and Mercedes-Benz E-Class, even have automatic high-beams.

Voice Command

Not long ago, voice command was the stuff of sci-fi movies. Today, you can find it in cars like the Honda Civic, Kia Rio and Dodge Dart. In most applications, voice command allows drivers to simply touch a button and say, for instance, "Radio, 92.4 FM", "Navigate home" or "Call mom". Hundreds of vehicle functions can be controlled with your voice, enhancing safety.

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20
Don't take sides or play favourites today. In fact, steer clear of contentious issues altogether if you can. No matter how hard you try to be fair, you will make more enemies than friends.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21
You are being too serious about something that is of no importance in the greater scheme of things. Focus on what makes you feel good, what makes you laugh, what makes you glad to be alive. Nothing else matters.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21
It may seem as if someone you live or work with is trying to undermine your efforts, but in reality you are reading too much into a situation that is quite straightforward. Don't listen to what they say — watch what they do.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23
No matter how annoying certain people get today, you must not allow yourself to be provoked. You may be raging on the inside but if you stay calm on the outside it will defuse what could have been a messy situation.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23
A sudden attraction is likely today but it may be more than just romantic. Most likely you will meet someone whose mind is a match for your own, and whose sense of humour has you laughing fit to bust.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to do some serious thinking about a relationship that has brought you a lot of pleasure but also a considerable amount of pain. Is it worth carrying on with? Only you can decide. Make your choice.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You need to slow down and catch your breath today because what happens over the following three or four days will be both exciting and exhausting. Give your body, your mind and your emotions a rest — they've earned it.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you uncover some juicy information about a friend, you should keep it to yourself. It will save them from embarrassment — and give you a bargaining chip you may one day be able to use.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Some people are feeling rather resentful towards you. Why? Because everything you touch turns to gold. It's not your fault you are smack bang in the middle of such a fortunate phase, so don't feel guilty about it.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The planets warn that although it's right to feel pleased with what you have achieved, it would be wrong to believe it's all plain sailing from now on. A new challenge is heading your way. Be ready for it.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Stop thinking about what has gone wrong and focus on the many things that are still going right for you. There is no reason at all why you should be in a downbeat mood. Life is good and getting better.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20
A friend in need may be the last thing you want to deal with right now but you are not the sort to turn them away. Do what you can to soothe their fears and ease their pain. You'll benefit too, in unexpected ways. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

Across

- Apple product
- Golfer's goal
- Reunion attendee
- Stop — - dime (2 words)
- Before, or yore
- Singer/actress Falana
- Ruin
- Make over
- Fashion magazine
- Star of Touched by an Angel (2 words)
- the Heat of the Night
- Buddhist sect
- Fuss
- Gamble
- "How to Marry a Millionaire" actress (init.)
- "Con —"
- Wedge
- Bikini half
- Courtroom figure (abbr.)
- Snakelike fish
- My Name is —
- Syrup source
- Minneapolis state.
- Wee Irish fairy
- Actress Ramirez of Grey's Anatomy
- "— on Me"
- La Rue of CSI: Miami
- Related
- Do away with
- Tin Tin
- Jeans go-with
- Pauses
- Unhappy

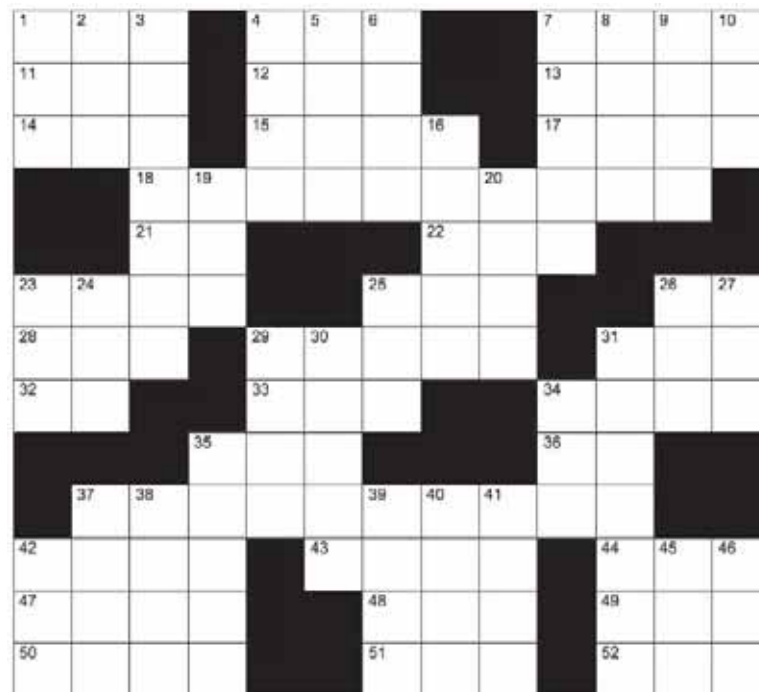
Down

- We celebrate her in May
- Actress Ortiz of Ugly Betty
- Transporter
- Hairdo

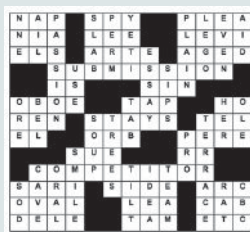
- Space
- Comedian Foxx
- Actress Close
- Function
- McBeal
- Daniel — Kim of Hawaii Five-O
- Seeps
- Toronto's prov.
- Dampens
- Passing fancy

- Inlet
- Sound measure
- Sub zero comment
- Guy's date
- Juicy fruit
- Ward off
- Pennants
- Aussie bird
- Reaches
- Pond
- Canal of song
- Bird-bill part
- Broadway musical
- No ifs, — or buts
- Was in session
- By way of
- The Bold — the Beautiful

BY BETTY MARTIN



Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers
metronews.ca/
answers.



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	1	4	6	5	9	2	7	3
5	7	2	8	4	3	9	6	1
9	3	6	1	2	7	8	5	4
4	6	8	9	7	1	5	3	2
3	2	1	5	8	6	4	9	7
7	5	9	4	3	2	1	8	6
1	8	5	3	6	4	7	2	9
6	9	7	2	1	5	3	4	8
2	4	3	7	9	8	6	1	5

5					3		9	
		1	3		2			
2					7			
		2					6	
	5	6	4	8	9	7	1	
	7					4		
			2					1
			7		8	6		
1		4						3

Today



Thursday



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SO MANY GREAT OFFERS, SO LITTLE TIME.

Hurry in, Winterfest ends Jan 2.



**0% — FINANCING ON —
2013**
SELECT MODELS**



2013 SORENTO

Sorento SX shown[†]

OWN IT FROM
\$160*
BI-WEEKLY

WITH
\$0
DOWN

AT
1.49%
APR

FOR UP TO
60
MONTHS

INCLUDES

**EVERYBODY
WINS[†]
\$1,000**

+

PAY

**UNTIL SPRING[™]
THIS MONTH ONLY!**

HWY (A/T): 6.5L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 9.8L/100KM

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY*

bi-weekly for 60 months, amortized over 84 months with **\$0 DOWN PAYMENT**. \$8,175 remaining balance. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of \$2,183, **\$500 LOAN SAVINGS[‡]** and **\$1,000 EVERYBODY WINS SAVINGS[†]** BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF \$29,078. Offer based on 2013 Sorento LX AT.



**7 PASSENGER
SEATING
AVAILABLE**

2012 RONDO

Rondo EX-V6 Luxury shown[†]

NOW ONLY
\$16,928*

INCLUDES
**\$6,250[‡] IN CASH
SAVINGS**

INCLUDES

**EVERYBODY
WINS[†]
\$1,000**

HWY (A/T): 7.5L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 10.6L/100KM

AIR CONDITIONING

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION

Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of \$2,183, **\$5,250 CASH SAVINGS[‡]** and **\$1,000 EVERYBODY WINS SAVINGS[†]** BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF \$23,178. Offer and features based on 2012 Rondo LX with AC.



2013 OPTIMA

Optima SX Turbo shown[†]

INCLUDES

NOW ONLY
\$19,583*

INCLUDES
**\$4,400[‡] IN CASH
SAVINGS**

**EVERYBODY
WINS[†]
\$1,000**

AIR CONDITIONING

BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY*

HWY (A/T): 5.6L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 8.6L/100KM

Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of \$1,988, **\$3,400 CASH SAVINGS[‡]** and **\$1,000 EVERYBODY WINS SAVINGS[†]** BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF \$23,983. Offer based on 2013 Optima LX MT.



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comprehensive
warranty.

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KIA
The Power to Surprise

Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees and all mandatory government levies. Prices do not include licensing or applicable taxes.

Offer(s) available on select new 2012/2013 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by January 2, 2013. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. *0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013 Kia models on approved credit. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Rion LX MT (R0551D) with a selling price of \$16,083 [includes delivery and destination fees of \$1,455, \$1,000 Everybody Wins savings, tire recycling and filter charges of \$34, OMVIC fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to \$399), environmental fee and A/C charge (\$100, where applicable)] financed at 0% APR for 36 months. 78 bi-weekly payments equal \$193 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of \$0. License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. *Every eligible contestant will win (subject to correctly answering a skill-testing question) an Instant Win prize consisting of a discount in an amount from \$1,000 to \$10,000 towards the purchase or lease of any new 2012 or 2013 Kia vehicle. One Grand Prize consisting of a \$25,000 cheque will be randomly awarded from among all eligible contestants at the conclusion of the contest. No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license over the age of majority. Odds of winning a particular discount vary by prize and by region. See Kia.ca or your participating Kia dealer for complete contest rules. **"Don't Pay until Spring" on select new models (120-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing on all 2013 Sorento models. No interest will accrue during the first 90 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. †Bi-weekly finance payment (on approved credit) for new 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD) based on a selling price of \$29,078 is \$160 with an APR of 1.49% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of \$8,175 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Offer includes \$1,000 Everybody Wins savings, \$500 loan savings, delivery and destination fees of \$1,650, tire recycling and filter charges of \$34, OMVIC fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to \$399), environmental fee and A/C charge (\$100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ‡Loan savings for 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD) is \$500 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit. Loan savings vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Some conditions apply. *Cash purchase price for 2013 Optima LX MT (OP541D)/2012 Rondo LX with AC (RN750C) is \$19,583/\$16,928 and includes a cash savings of \$3,400/\$5,250 (which is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers) and \$1,000 Everybody Wins savings. Includes delivery and destination fees of \$1,455/\$1,650, tire recycling and filter charges of \$34, OMVIC fee, variable administration fees (up to \$399), environmental fee and A/C charge (\$100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Based on the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price of \$23,983/\$23,178. Retailer may sell for less. Available at participating dealers. See dealer for full details. *\$3,400/\$5,250 cash savings on the cash purchase of an eligible new 2013 Optima LX MT (OP541D)/2012 Rondo LX with AC (RN750C) from a participating dealer between December 1, 2012 – January 2, 2013. Cash savings is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. *Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Sorento 3.5L SX AWD 7-seater (SR75XD)/2013 Optima SX Turbo AT (OP748D)/2012 Rondo EX V6 Luxury (RN75BC) is \$43,045/\$35,550/\$28,945 and includes delivery and destination fees of \$1,650/\$1,455/\$1,650, environmental fee and A/C charge (\$100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to \$399), tire recycling and filter charges of \$34, OMVIC fee and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. Available at participating dealers. *The Bluetooth® wordmark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. *Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2013 Sorento 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Optima 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2012 Rondo 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T). These updated estimates are based on Transport Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada's *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit Kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia Canada is the official automotive sponsor of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada). KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.